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Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky welcomes European Union's approval of a 90 billion euro ($105 bn) loan for Ukraine that had been stalled by Hungary's outgoing PM Viktor Orban, P 14

Sri Lanka is looking to recover $2.5 million lost to cyber hacking of finance ministry's payment system, a top bureaucrat confirms. Hacking in the ministry was done via email and it came to be aware of hacking attempts early this year, P 14

Trump's acting attorney general signs an order reclassifying state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug, a big policy shift long sought by advocates who say cannabis should never have been treated like heroin by the federal govt, P 14

After row over his memoir 'Four Stars of Destiny', **ex-Army chief Gen MM Naravane (Retd) tells channels it's 'totally unfair to drag me and forces into politics' by using his unpublished book** to score points; asserts that he was not abandoned by govt during LAC faceoff, P 6

Yogi to be BJP's face for 2027 UP polls, says Nabin

BJP chief Nitin Nabin has asserted that CM Yogi Adityanath will be the party's face for 2027 UP polls, due early next year. He said BJP is confident of returning to office for a third time under Yogi's leadership. BJP in UP is known to have multiple power centres — organisational functionaries, regional satraps and caste-based influencers. Yogi's endorsement in public by Nabin may thus serve as a signal to prevent leadership speculation, even as ticket distribution and alliances become contentious closer to elections. P 6

Gujarat villager wrestles leopard, saves daughter

A tale of extraordinary courage unfolded in Rasli village of Pavi Jetpur taluk of Gujarat's Chhota Udepur district, where a tribal man fought off a leopard with his bare hands, forcing open its jaws to save his four-year-old daughter.

The girl was playing in the backyard of their home on Wednesday evening when the leopard pounced, dragging her away. She suffered grievous injuries to her face and neck, and is under treatment. P 8

Cong neta moves SC over Modi's address on DD

Congress functionary T N Prathapan has approached SC, alleging PM Modi's April 18 speech on DD and Sansad TV blaming opposition parties for defeat of women's quota bill was an MCC violation, as it was a political speech used to influence voters and amounted to misuse of official machinery.

Chaos at KIA after SpiceJet flight delay

Chaos unfolded at KIA Thursday after SpiceJet flight SG768 from Bengaluru to Kolkata was delayed for several hours. Passengers said they were left waiting without updates. TNN

Heatwave kills 35 peacocks in T'kuru

A severe heatwave in Tumakuru has been linked to the death of 35 peacocks this week. Authorities have collected water samples from the area to test for possible contamination. P 4

Sena MLA's threat over Pansare book

Shiv Sena MLA Sanjay Gaikwad Thursday admitted to calling up the publisher of a book on Chhatrapati Shivaji by late Govind Pansare and asking him to "go where Pansare has gone". TNN

Dalit man dies after self-immolation

Days after a 22-year-old Dalit man set himself on fire at a village in UP's Muzaffarnagar district after he was allegedly humiliated in public, he succumbed to his injuries on Tuesday. TNN

Special intensive turnout: Nat'l record of 92.6% in Bengal Ph 1

85% Polling In TN, 21.7L More Votes Than '21

Kaushik Pradhan & Shanmughasundaram J

Kolkata/Chennai: Record-breaking turnout in Bengal and Tamil Nadu underscored a high-stakes election shaped by voter roll revisions, as crores queued up Thursday to assert their hard-earned franchise. Bengal logged an unprecedented 92.6% turnout (9pm figure) in the first phase across 152 constituencies in 16 districts, far above 81.5% in 2021 and 84.3% in 2011. EC officials said 92.6% was without precedent nationally.

Tamil Nadu recorded 85% turnout (9pm figure), up from 73.6% in 2021, after about 57 lakh names were removed, reducing electorate from 6.3 crore to 5.7 crore. Still, in absolute terms, 21.7 lakh more votes were cast compared to previous election, a 3.7% increase. "For the highest ever percentage of polling in Bengal and Tamil Nadu since Independence, EC salutes each voter of the two states," chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar said. Final figures could rise after consolidation of reports, officials said.

▶Poll-day violence, P 7

Didi Dribbling Dadas: P 10

HIGHER TURNOUT, MORE VOTERS IN BOTH STATES

Photo: L R Shankar

Visually impaired TN voters at a polling booth in Chennai

Turnout*	2021	2026	Change
West Bengal (Ph 1)	82.4%	92.6%	+10.1
Tamil Nadu	72.7%	85%	+12.4
Absolute Voters*	**2021**	**2026**	**Change**
West Bengal (Ph 1)	3.1cr	3.3cr	+0.2cr
Tamil Nadu	4.6cr	4.9cr	+0.3cr

- In West Bengal, **Raghunathganj** recorded **highest turnout at 96.9%**, while **Darjeeling** recorded the **lowest at 88.4%**
- In Tamil Nadu, **Karur** recorded the **highest turnout at 93%**, while **Palayamkottai** recorded the lowest at 69%
- In West Bengal, constituencies with **higher SIR-linked deletions saw higher increase in turnout**

*Only EVM votes considered | Data till 9pm

FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 12

HC to EC: Why don't you declare emergency?

Calling it "abuse of power" and "drastic", Calcutta HC on Thursday slammed EC for its 48-hour restriction on motorcycles in Kolkata and South 24 Parganas from 6pm on April 27, saying, "Why isn't your authority declaring an emergency... citizens' rights cannot be curtailed in this manner." Justice Krishna Rao asked EC to submit an affidavit Friday explaining the rationale behind the direction and said, "Show where such notifications are issued in other states. Just because Election Commission has power doesn't mean anything can be done. Citizens are being harassed in this way... You have a police administration and CCTV, so what's the need for this..." P 12

K'taka logs 94.1% pass in SSLC results, big jump over last year

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Notwithstanding last-minute confusion over govt's proposed shift to a grading system for Hindi subject, Karnataka has recorded a sharp rise in overall results of SSLC exams, with pass percentage climbing to 94.1% this year. In 2025, Karnataka recorded 80.04% passes accounting for all three examinations, while the main exam pass percentage stood at 62.3%.

A total of 8.5 lakh students appeared for the March-April examination, including 7.7 lakh fresh candidates, marking a significant improvement over last year.

In line with their consistent performance, coastal districts — Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada — emerged as top three performers this year too.

School education minister Madhu Bangarappa highlighted the progress made by districts in the Kalyana-Karnataka region, including Kalaburagi and Yadgir. Rural students (94.8%) outperformed urban students (93.2%), while girls continued to lead with 96.2 passes. He pointed to a sharp rise in boys' performance, which improved from 74.2% in 2025 to 91.9% this year.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 5

▶Lower passing marks, P 5

THE SPECTACULAR SEVEN

Seven who secured 625/625: **Prarthana Nagappa Biradar Patil** (Chikkodi), **Bharath G** (Davanagere), **Brunda M Tapse** (Chikkamagaluru), **Dhanush Sudhir Mysore** (Bengaluru North), **Preetham G Poojary** (Udupi), **Saujanya Basavaraj Kandakur** (Vijayapura) and **Sukhadeva** (Raichur)

Rural students lead; DK top dist with 98.4% pass

- Considering the highest pass percentage, there will be **no exam-III this year**, says minister
- **Exam-II from May 18 to 25** for students who wish to improve their performance
- Rural students (94.8%) outclass urban students (93.2%). Over **2,390 govt schools achieved 100% results** against 766 last year
- **Dakshina Kannada top district** with 98.4% passing, Kalaburagi last with 85.1%

No plan to hike prices of petrol, diesel: Govt

Govt on Thursday said there was no plan to raise retail prices of petrol and diesel despite oil refiners incurring losses due to the Gulf conflict, **reports Atul Mathur.** Sujata Sharma, joint secretary in petroleum and natural gas ministry, said govt has kept pump prices stable even as OMCs were making under-recoveries of Rs 20 per litre on petrol and Rs 100 per litre on diesel.

US tourist recounts Kodagu rape ordeal: 'I could see and feel, but could not move'

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Bengaluru: Probe into the Kodagu homestay horror in which a US tourist was raped has thrown up more chilling details: The woman was restrained from talking to anyone, she was allowed only to text.

In her statement, the woman reportedly told police that she was forced to stay in the homestay for four days after the horrifying incident, when she was reportedly raped by the cook-cum-housekeeper in her homestay tent after her welcome drink was spiked.

"Since I was tired, I entered the tent and slept. Around 1.30pm, the housekeeper entered, tapped on my left shoulder and gave me guava juice. He left the tent. I was kind of sleepy and drowsy. When I woke up, the same man was above me." She said she could not resist or move away due to drowsiness but "could see and feel everything". She said she was subjected to assault between 1.30pm and 3pm.

▶ FULL COVERAGE: PAGE 3

▶'Don't inform cops', P 4

COLLECTED EVIDENCE

- **Survivor collected bedsheet, headband & tissue papers** from the tent where she was raped. "These will be considered as **strong proof in court", say cops**
- Tells cops homestay cook gave her **spiked guava juice, tried entering her tent again**

"Homestay owner did not allow me to make calls. I was connected only through text mode. I was very afraid and helpless — **Survivor**

Devotees' right to worship beyond court review: SC

New Delhi: In a significant statement, apparently in conflict with the judgment that quashed the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple's custom of barring entry of women in 10-50-year age group, Supreme Court Thursday prima facie agreed that devotees' right to decide the mode and manner of worshipping God was non-justiciable, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra.**

The court's remark following senior advocate J Muth Raj's argument that in Hinduism, every village had a 'gram devta', every family had a 'kul devta' and 'ishta devta', all of whom were worshipped differently and it was impossible for the court to scrutinise essentiality of such practices while tracing it to the umbrella religion.

▶'Faith is private', P 9

Suitcase zoo! Customs sniff out wildlife haul at KIA

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Bengaluru: An unusual, offensive odour wafting through the green channel raised the first red flag at KIA, prompting an alert Customs officer to stop a flyer from Bangkok for inspection—ultimately exposing a major wildlife smuggling racket involving hundreds of live exotic animals, including blue iguanas, snakes and turtles, stuffed in bags.

Acting on inputs, Air Intelligence Unit had already flagged the suspects travelling on Thai Airways flight TG-325, which landed on Thursday. When flyer Lavanya Naganna walked past the green channel, reeking, the officer stopped her. She hesitated when asked to open her bag. After a brief exchange, she unzipped it, revealing live snakes and tortoises concealed inside.

Officials said scale and diversity of the seizure point to a well-organised smuggling network

▶Protected species, P 4

MP daily-wager's daughter has no gear, eyes Asia Cup

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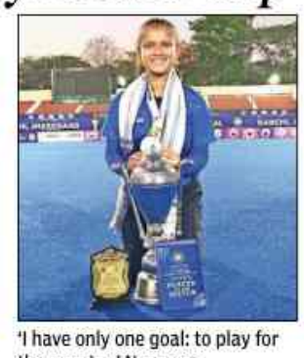
Bhopal: At a national camp in the city, Nausheen Naz, 15, trains alongside probables who own multiple kits. Naz borrows gear. Her father Ahfaz Khan, a daily-wager earning about Rs 250 a day, cannot buy her a proper hockey stick. No kit. No safety net. But the girl from Madhya Pradesh's Seoni is India's most exciting women's hockey forward prospect, closing on a spot in the Under-18 Asia Cup squad for Japan from May 29.

Four years ago, her journey began in a cramped, roofless rented shack in Seoni, around 380km southeast of Bhopal. A discarded, broken hockey stick became her tool. "Without complaining, she tied it with a cloth, tied it again when it split, and kept playing," said Khan, 48.



'I have only one goal: to play for the country,' Naz says

▶Only one goal, P 17

'Inappropriate': India on Trump's 'hellhole' repost

US Embassy In Delhi Attempts Damage Control

Chidanand Rajghatta

US President Donald Trump on Thursday befouled Washington's already dodgy ties with the two largest countries in the world, reposting a four-page racist screed by a supporter that called India and China "hellholes" and accused them of exploiting America's birthright citizenship privileges.

The MAGA supremo chose to repost an anti-immigrant tirade by conservative radio host Michael Savage, who espouses nativist nationalism. Savage claimed that those who get citizenship due to birth in US later "bring the entire family from China or India or some other hellhole on the planet". He also alleged that immigrants from these countries exploit the system through "birth tourism", and described them as "gangsters with laptops".

The repost was followed by the US embassy in New Delhi reaching out to the media to soften the latest slur. The US embassy spokesman here quoted President Trump as saying, "India is a great country with a very good friend of mine at the top".

After the US embassy's damage-control exercise, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said, "We have seen the comments, as also the subsequent statement issued by US Embassy... The remarks are obviously uninformed, inappropriate and in poor taste."

FULL COVERAGE: P 13, 14

▶Questioned Obama, P 14

'SAVAGE' REPOST & 'GREAT COUNTRY'

"A baby here (in US) becomes an instant citizen, and **they bring the entire family in from China or India or some other hellhole...** there's almost no loyalty to this country amongst the immigrant class —**Radio host Michael Savage's video reposted by Trump**

"They (remarks) certainly do not reflect the reality of the India-US relationship... based on **mutual respect** and shared interests —MEA

"India is a **great country with a very good friend of mine** at the top —**US embassy spokesperson, quoting Trump**

'Shoot and kill' Iran's boats: Trump; US seizes tanker in Indian Ocean

President Donald Trump on Thursday ordered the US military to "shoot and kill" Iranian small boats choking the Strait of Hormuz, and reposted a clip from a commentator that recommended killing Iranian leaders who oppose the deal and destroying Kharg island.

"I have ordered the United States Navy to shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be... that is putting mines in the waters of the Strait of Hormuz," Trump posted. "There is to be no hesitation. Additionally, our mine 'sweepers' are clearing the Strait right now. I am hereby ordering that activity to continue, but at a tripled up level!"

The series of posts came after the US military said it seized another tanker on Thursday, associated with smuggling Iranian oil, in the Indian Ocean. The seizure of Majestic X followed Iranian attacks on three cargo ships in Hormuz, two of which it captured. Ship-tracking data showed Majestic X between Sri Lanka and Indonesia. P 14

STRAIT TALK

Iran state TV put out a video of its commandos storming cargo ships, including one India-bound, on Wednesday

- **Tehran says it will not consider opening Hormuz** until US lifts its blockade
- **Sensex closes over 800pts down** as crude oil prices surge above $100 a barrel
- Mid-war, **US fires navy secy John Phelan,** a financier appointed by Trump. On Apr 2, army chief of staff Randy George was fired

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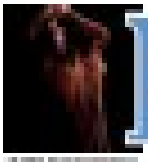


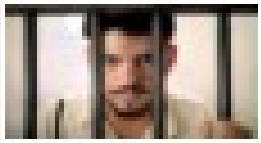
Bangalore Times

A new depth of time: Where precision meets the pressure of the deep sea

I am not thinking of becoming a coach yet: Saina

Kapadia named jury president for Cannes Critics Week

Lawrence docu sparks row; makers deny glorification



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INDIA'S FLU PROTECTION

KODAGU CASE Facility To Remain Shut Until Further Orders

Homestay licence cancelled; police to seek duo's custody

Lawrence Milton & G Rajendra | TNN

Mysuru/Madikeri: Days after the alleged rape of a US tourist on April 12, Kodagu district administration has cancelled the licence of the homestay at Kutta on Karnataka–Kerala border where the incident is said to have taken place.

Deputy commissioner SJ Somashekar, who also heads Kodagu District Tourism Development Committee, issued the order after receiving a report from police.

Officials said the cancellation was prompted by the seriousness of the allegations and concerns over the safety and reputation of the accommodation facility.

With the licence revoked, the homestay can no longer operate or accept guests until further orders. Records show the licence was valid until 2029.

The accused, cook Brijeshkumar, 45, and homestay owner PA Ponnappa alias Vishal, 55, have been in judicial custody since their arrest Sunday. Police are likely to take them into custody for further questioning.

Based on a complaint filed by the woman, police have booked them under BNS Section 64(1) (rape), Section 351 (2) (criminal intimidation), Section 238 (causing disappearance of evidence), and Section 239 (intentional omission to give information).

Kodagu police registered the FIR on April 18, six days after the alleged assault. The survivor told police that she first contacted a friend in Bengaluru, then a colleague in the US, and later reached out to the US Consulate to facilitate legal formalities.

Sources said she underwent a medical examination on April 19 at a private hospital in Mysuru. Medico-legal procedures were completed, and samples collected during the examination have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory for analysis. Police officers accompanied her during the process.

Accused file bail pleas; owner disputes allegations

The accused have moved bail petitions before a court in Virajpet. The petitions are scheduled to come up for hearing Friday.
Advocate Kokkanda Appanna, appearing for homestay owner Vishal, claimed there were discrepancies between the complaint and what he described as the sequence of events. He said after the alleged incident, the survivor went to a swimming pool and spent time there, and later shifted from a tent house to a safer place inside the homestay with the support of the owner's mother. He further claimed that in the following days, Vishal took her to Kushalnagar, arranged cabs for visits to the Bylakuppe Tibetan settlement in Kodagu district and an elephant camp, and later organised transport to Mysuru after three days.

He told **TOI** Vishal's mother and wife were present at the homestay, and that the survivor did not disclose to them any assault and appeared normal during her stay.

Tents and solo travellers: SAFETY CHECK IN FOCUS

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The reported sexual assault on the US citizen has highlighted the risks to safety of solo travellers who stay in tents, which do not have any locking mechanism inside.

Adventure enthusiasts, especially those on trekking trips, or travellers opting for tent accommodations in homestays and resorts need to assess how safe these experiences really are. Experts say that tents come with inherent vulnerabilities.

"There are various kinds of tents based on shape, altitude and materials. The most important aspect is ensuring proper ventilation — keeping the tent slightly open for fresh air to avoid suffocation. At the same time, one must look out for dangers lurking around," said S Srivatsa, secretary of Karnataka Mountaineering Association (KMA). He added that personal security should be regarded as a critical aspect. "A tent is like a home for an individual, and no one should enter without consent. In setups where tents are part of homestays or private estates, especially canvas tents, people must be extremely cautious about who is allowed inside and should never permit strangers."

The issue is complicated by regulatory ambiguities around camping. Clement Dominic, secretary of Bangalore Mountaineering Club (BMC), pointed out that in many parts of Karnataka, pitching tents freely is not permitted. "Trekkers are often required to stay in homestays that offer tent-like accommodations. In such cases, the safety of people is dependent on the property owner's arrangements and security protocols," he said.

STEPS TO REMEMBER

- Never allow unknown persons into your tent; treat it like a private space
- Camp in groups rather than alone, especially in remote areas
- Inform someone about your location and expected return
- Avoid isolated or poorly monitored locations
- Ensure proximity to a caretaker, guide or security personnel
- Ensure zippers and closures are functional and secured at night

Gadkari promised to repair Hosur Rd by April-end: Shaw

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Biocon chairperson and entrepreneur **Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** Thursday said Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari had assured her that Hosur Road in Hebbagodi would be restored to good condition by the end of this month.

Earlier this month, Shaw in a post on X had criticised the condition of Hosur Road (NH-44), calling it poorly designed and badly maintained. She also flagged the lack of response to repeated complaints. In reply, NHAI said the stretch, completed in 2010, now carried heavy traffic due to rapid urban growth. Following her post, Shaw met Gadkari last week. "He (Gadkari) was very helpful. He said he was very upset that the national highway was in such bad shape and he promised to improve it," Shaw said on the sidelines of 'STAMP: Nudging Commuter Behaviour' event here.

She also highlighted daily traffic congestion near the Biocon Hebbagodi Metro station.

Biocon staff shift to public transport

More than 1,000 employees of Biocon have shifted from private vehicles to public modes of commute as part of a corporate mobility programme aimed at reducing traffic congestion and vehicular emissions in Bengaluru. The initiative — STAMP: Nudging Commuter Behaviour — has been developed by WRI India in collaboration with Toyota Mobility Foundation. A dedicated app enables employees to plan, track and pay for their journeys across metro, bus and feeder services. It integrates real-time information, ticketing, and multimodal connectivity, while also offering features tailored to Biocon's organisational needs.

"By aligning corporate policy with city infrastructure, we are tackling congestion at its source. I urge all corporate citizens to adopt this institutional approach and help us move Bengaluru toward a less congested, more livable future," said Maheshwar Rao, chief commissioner of Greater Bengaluru Authority.

GBA asks citizens to be alert about WA fraud

Bengaluru: Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) issued a public advisory about a series of fraud attempts being carried out via WhatsApp by misusing names, designations and photographs of the GBA chief commissioner and city corporation commissioners.

Fraudsters in recent days created WhatsApp accounts with display pictures of senior civic officials and sent messages to govt staff and others seeking financial assistance on various pretexts. GBA Thursday said complaints had been filed at cybercrime police stations and FIRs registered in multiple instances. Complaints over impersonation of GBA chief commissioner Maheshwar Rao were registered on April 15 and April 17, while a complaint for North City municipal commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar was filed on April 22. Similar cases concerning East and Central municipal commissioners were registered on April 23, and steps are under way to file a complaint in connection with South municipal commissioner Ramesh K N, GBA said.

Police said multiple phone numbers were used to send out messages. GBA has urged officials, staff and citizens to not respond to such messages. "Citizens must report such messages to police. The authority has requested the public to share information about suspicious messages or calls through its helpline number 1533," Rao said. TNN

Revised PWD bitumen rates fall short of market surge; 90% of road works hit

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Bengaluru: With bitumen prices crossing the 10% variation threshold, the public works department (PWD) revised rates with effect from early April. However, contractors say the updated rates remain well below prevailing market prices, leading to a near-complete halt in road works across Bengaluru.

Officials from th Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) report that more than 90% of asphalting projects have been stalled, as contractors are unwilling to continue under what they describe as financially unviable conditions.

According to the PWD order, while cement and structural steel prices have remained within the permissible variation limit for the first quarter of 2026-27, bitumen and TMT steel have seen sharper escalations, necessitating revised rates. However, contractors argue that actual market prices have outpaced even these revisions. Contractors attribute the crisis to supply disruptions from key refining hubs such as Mangaluru and Maharashtra. "Earlier, bitumen cost around Rs 45,000 per tonne. Now suppliers are quoting close to Rs 80,000 per tonne. PWD has revised our rates based on the crisis, but due to lack of supply we're requesting a star rate so that payments reflect actual market costs. Chennai and Mangaluru are the largest suppliers, and if they are charging Rs 80,000 per tonne, where are we supposed to go?" asked GM Nandakumar, president of the Greater Bengaluru City Corporation Contractors Association. He added that while discussions are ongoing with the govt, work will resume only once approvals for such rates are granted.

File Photo

NOT SMOOTH FLOW: Contractors are unwilling to continue, citing what they describe as financially unviable conditions, sources said

Plea to release payments

In a representation to the GBA commissioner, the contractors' association has sought urgent release of differential payments under a "star rate" model, citing extraordinary price escalation.

The association has also invoked the force majeure clause under the Karnataka Public Procurement framework, pointing to global disruptions, including the ongoing Iran-America conflict, as a key driver of abnormal increases in bitumen, cement and steel prices, affecting both ongoing works and contracts awarded in March 2026.

Contractors say the cost escalation has severely disrupted the economics of road construction. Rangaswamy VH, treasurer of the association, said: "For a one-kilometre bitumen concrete road of 40mm thickness and 5-metre width, about 25 tonnes of material is required, while bitumen macadam roads require around 18 tonnes and involve a rougher mix compared to smoother bitumen concrete roads. With input costs surging, even ongoing projects have become financially unsustainable."

While officials maintain that the revised rates have already been communicated and contractors have been asked to proceed, they acknowledge the ongoing standoff. "We are working on solutions. Once it is resolved, asphalting works across the city will resume soon," an official said.

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5 - Year Integ. B.A. LL. B. (Hons.) / B.B.A. LL. B. (Hons.) / B.Com. LL. B. (Hons.) Campus : Thanjavur	Phase II : Based on Class XII Scores + CLAT 2026 Scores	From June 06, 2026	JUNE 05, 2026
M.B.A. & M.C.A. Campus: Chennai & Thanjavur	Based on Test & Interview. Applicants with good CAT/GMAT/ XAT/AIMAT/CMAT scores will be exempt from appearing for the test	Rolling (Admissions in Batches)	Scan to Apply
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Heavy alcohol drinking drains state of ₹51k-cr in social costs

Sandeep.Moudgal@timesofindia.com

Bengaluru: Karnataka incurs a staggering Rs 51,000 crore annually in social costs due to over consumption by its alcohol drinkers, the state's excise reforms report prepared by the Resource Mobilisation Committee reveals.

Citing data from National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 2021, the report released by the govt late Wednesday states Karnataka ranks seventh among the highest alcohol-consuming states, with per capita consumption at 9.1 litres per year—significantly above the national average of 6.4 litres.

The report states that while overall consumption remains relatively low at 8.6% — compared to the national average of 10% among those aged above 15 years — a smaller segment of heavy drinkers is driving up social and economic costs.

The committee states alcohol-related harm accounts for an estimated 1.4% to 2.6% of gross state domestic product (GSDP). These costs include impact on families through domestic violence, road accidents caused by drunk driving, pressure on the healthcare system due to liver disease and alcohol use disorders, and financial strain on low-income households where spending is diverted from essentials such as food, health, and education.

The report states Karnataka is one of India's largest and fastest-growing alcohol markets, both in terms of consumption and fiscal contribution. "Industry data for the 2024-25 fiscal shows Karnataka sold 6.8 crore cases of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL), accounting for about 17% of total IMFL sales in India," said the report.

NFHS data showed that about 16.5% of men aged 15-49 in Karnataka reported consuming alcohol, compared to just 0.9% of women, but the huge gender disparity comes with a twist.

"While men account for the overwhelming majority of alcohol consumers, women and children frequently bear a disproportionate share of the social and economic consequences associated with harmful alcohol use," the committee observed.

The report also linked alcohol consumption to cases of domestic distress recorded at One Stop Centres (OSCs) across the state. Between 2022-23 and 2024-25, these centres registered 6,553 and 7,861 cases annually, including domestic violence and marital conflict.

"A substantial share of these cases was associated with alcohol consumption within households," said the committee. "Alcohol-linked cases numbered 1,598 in 2022-23, 1,224 in 2023-24, and 1,498 in 2024-25, with more than 1,200 cases already recorded in the ongoing financial year 2025-26. These figures illustrate that alcohol misuse is a recurring factor in cases requiring state-supported protection services."

TOI

State committee bats for online sale of liquor

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Karnataka Resource Mobilisation Committee has recommended the introduction of online liquor sales in the state as part of broader excise reforms, a move that is likely to spark debate given past opposition.

In a report on Karnataka's excise policy, the committee described selling liquor online as a "complement to retail reforms". It says digital transactions would create better traceability and strengthen the state's alcohol tax framework.

"A more open and efficiently regulated distribution framework would not only improve availability and reduce economic rents but would also strengthen legal market channels and improve fiscal performance of the alcohol tax system."

The panel emphasised that modernisation of the alcohol distribution system should include regulated online sales and home delivery as an extension of existing licenced retail channels. It said that in a digital economy, the debate is shifting from where alcohol is sold to how it is accessed.

Won't amount to deregulation

"Experience from several Indian states and international jurisdictions shows that online sale of liquor, when tightly regulated, need not amount to deregulation," the panel said. "Rather, it can function as a more transparent, traceable, and administratively manageable extension of the existing excise framework."

Listing advantages, the committee said online sales would generate a digital record of every transaction, improve monitoring and reduce opportunities for tax evasion and diversion. It also said such a system could ease congestion and public order issues around retail outlets, especially in urban areas, while reducing dependence on informal and unlicenced supply chains.

The committee believes online platforms could potentially "support stronger age verification and quantity controls through identity checks at both the ordering and delivery stages," making them more auditable compared to cash-based retail systems.

Potential risks

However, the committee acknowledged potential risks, including underage access, increased convenience leading to higher consumption, and the role of unlicenced intermediaries.

"For that reason, any move in this direction should be tightly designed," the report states. "Online sale should be permitted only through licenced vendors or authorised platforms operating within the excise system. It should be integrated with registration, digital payment, age verification, delivery verification, quantity restrictions, and track-and-trace systems."

The recommendation revives a previously debated proposal that was rejected by excise minister RB Timmapur, who cited concerns over its social impact.

Siddaramaiah meets with confidants amid speculation of 'big' changes

Times News Network

Bengaluru: Amid growing speculation of big changes in the state Congress unit and govt following announcement of election results to four states and a Union territory on May 4, chief minister Siddaramaiah held a meeting with confidants late Wednesday at his official residence.

Sources say discussions focused on internal party concerns, including the churn in Muslim leadership highlighted during the Davanagere South bypoll. Members reportedly urged the CM to take a firm position on a possible cabinet reshuffle and to counter attempts of a change in CM.

Those present, often described as the CM's 'kitchen cabinet', included social welfare minister HC Mahadevappa, housing minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan, public works department minister Satish Jarkiholi, and urban development minister Byrathi Suresh, among others.

Confirming the meeting, Jarkiholi said multiple issues were discussed. "We asked the CM to intervene and sort out groupism among Muslim functionaries," said Jarkiholi. "It does not augur well for the party, and we made it clear that he needs to take a strong stand on the issue."

He admitted political developments were likely, especially on the issue of a cabinet reshuffle which he called "long-pending". "We expect some changes in the party and govt. There is a strong chance that it may happen soon after the election results on May 4," he said.

Meanwhile, deputy chief minister DK Shivakumar told reporters in Delhi that he met the party high command but refused to disclose details. He said: "I will meet central brass and submit a report related to the Assam and Tamil Nadu elections."

TOI

FLAVOUR OF THE SEASON: Locals felicitated CM Siddaramaiah with a garland of apples during Kumbhabhisheka Mahotsava of Beereshwara Swamy Temple in Whitefield, Bengaluru on Thursday

Will talk to religious leaders: Zameer

Housing minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan Thursday said he will discuss with leaders of the community the anger over Congress' decision not to give the Davanagere South bypoll ticket to a Muslim and the removal of MLCs Abdul Jabbar and Naseer Ahmed from their posts. "I understand that our religious leaders are unhappy. The issue must be sorted out through discussion. I will meet with them soon after Friday prayers," said Khan.

Zameer was allegedly targeted by the other Muslim functionaries — Rizan Arshad and Saleem Ahmed — within Congress, but he dismissed accusations of being a victim of a conspiracy as claimed by Ulemas. "No one accused me by name of indulging in anti-party activity during the Davanagere South bypoll," he said.

HC stays case against HM

Bengaluru: The Karnataka high court Thursday stayed a special court order that had directed the registration of a first information report (FIR) against home minister G Parameshwara and Tumakuru DC Subha Kalyan for allegedly wagering Rs 500 during a kabaddi tournament last year.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav, while granting interim relief, observed that the material on record did not prima facie establish mens rea (criminal intent). The court also flagged procedural lapses in the special court's order.

Counsel for Parameshwara had argued that the special court ought to have sought a report from the police before acting on a private complaint and directing registration of an FIR. But the complainant's counsel contended that such a requirement applies only when the alleged act is linked to a public servant's official duties and betting does not fall within his official functions. However, the court ruled in favour of Parameshwara and scheduled the next hearing after the summer vacation. TNN

SHORT TAKES

Decision on SC quota likely today: Mins

The special cabinet meeting scheduled for Friday will take a final decision on the long-pending issue of internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs), two senior ministers said. Home minister G Parameshwara, speaking in Tumakuru, said the cabinet will review developments so far and examine legal implications before arriving at a decision. "We need to ensure justice for all communities. We also have the challenge of completing recruitment for over 56,000 posts," Parameshwara said. Food and civil supplies minister KH Muniyappa in Bengaluru said: "Since reservation for immediate recruitment is limited to the existing 15%, the cabinet must finalise roster points within that quota."

50 years of Yediyurappa in politics

Karnataka BJP will formally mark the milestone of former chief minister BS Yediyurappa's being 50 years in politics with a celebration titled Abhimanotsava. The event has been scheduled in Chitradurga on May 9, with Union home minister Amit Shah set to inaugurate the programme. "For 50 years, Yediyurappa has fought for farmers, provided justice to the underprivileged, and advocated for social justice," said Chitradurga MP Govind M Karjol, while announcing the event. "We have decided to celebrate his life and social service through this event." He said heads of all mutts in the state, former chief ministers, ministers and dignitaries have been invited, besides writers, artists and people from all walks of society familiar with Yediyurappa.

Somanna blasts oppn over women's bill

Union minister of state for railways V Somanna launched a sharp attack on opposition parties over their stance on the Women's Reservation Bill, calling their resistance "a sinful act". In Mysuru, Somanna said the initiative to ensure adequate representation for women in legislatures should have been implemented 50 years ago, terming the prolonged delay "deeply unfortunate". "History shows that those who challenge Nari Shakti ultimately face decline — be it the Kauravas who humiliated Draupadi in the Mahabharata or Ravana who abducted Sita in the Ramayana," he said. On delimitation, Somanna dismissed opposition concerns that it would disadvantage southern states.

BJP condemns Kharge remark against PM

Karnataka BJP condemned Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge for allegedly referring to PM Modi as a "terrorist", claiming Congress "is unable to tolerate Modi's growing popularity". At a protest at Vidhana Soudha, BJP state president BY Vijayendra said more than 25 countries across the world conferred their highest civilian honours on Modi and demanded an apology from Kharge. Union minister Shobha Karandlaje alleged Rahul Gandhi made anti-national remarks even while abroad, while opposition leader R Ashoka called Kharge's remark an "unpardonable offence and an insult to the nation".

TOI

Happy Streets shifts to Nandini Layout this week

BHIMA presents HAPPY streets OUR ROADS. OUR WAY.

Nandini Layout will witness a lively, traffic-free morning as Happy Streets by The Times of India makes its debut in the neighbourhood this Sunday (April 26). The initiative aims to bring residents together through a mix of fitness, music and community-driven activities, turning everyday streets into vibrant public spaces.

The morning will begin with a meditation session by Heartfulness, followed by yoga and pranayama conducted by Sarvebhavanthu Sukhinah Yoga. The tempo will pick up with a high-energy Zumba and fitness dance session by The Swingers Dance Inc. Music and creative performances will be led by Mic & Melody and World Music Conservatory, along with singing training by From Mug to Mic. Dance performances by Jagan Jagz's Dance Studio, Delight Cultural Dance Academy and Firoz Dance and Fitness Studio will add to the festive atmosphere.

Bhima Jewellers, the presenting partner, will also host a crowd quiz with giveaways and a lucky draw. The event, near Oxford Secondary School in Nandini Layout, is open to all. TNN

Deaths of 35 peacocks linked to searing heat in Tumakuru

Times News Network

Tumakuru: Searing heat wave conditions and rising mercury levels in Tumakaru have been linked to the deaths of 35 peacocks this week. The deaths, reported from areas such as Bommanahalli and Machenahalli, were spread out over distances of 500 metres to 1km, indicating a widespread impact rather than an isolated incident.

Veterinary teams conducted postmortems and collected samples from the carcasses for laboratory analysis. Results are expected within 48 hours.

"Preliminary findings show the birds' bodies, including feathers and internal organs, were largely intact, though the lungs appeared affected. While heat stress and dehydration are being considered primary factors, authorities have not ruled out other causes such as bird flu," a forest official said. Water samples from the area have also been collected to check for contamination. As a precaution, affected sites have been sealed and sanitised, even as a six-member team, along with the range forest officer and veterinary doctors, continues its investigation.

In Aug last year, 20 peacocks were found dead near a waterbody in Tumakuru after reportedly consuming sown seeds treated with pesticides to avoid termite infestation.

—Nadi Gandhal

TOI

A peacock found dead in Tumakuru

Athletics meet to avoid peak hours

Organisers of the 24th National Junior (Under-20) Athletics Championship in Tumakuru have decided that no events will be held during peak sunlight hours. The three-day meet from April 24 to 26 at Mahatma Gandhi Stadium will be conducted in split sessions — mornings from 6am to 10:30am and evenings from 3:30pm to 8pm.

Tumakuru is hosting the championship for the first time, with the event being organised by the district administration, Karnataka Athletics Association, and Tumakuru District Athletics Association. More than 1,380 athletes from 28 states are set to compete across 40 events. Karnataka will field 110 athletes, including 10 from the host district. TNN

Nose rings of CET candidates covered with tape

In what could be seen as a new "anti-malpractice innovation", several girl students appearing for CET at MES College in Chikkamagaluru Thursday were reportedly asked to either remove their nose rings or have them covered with adhesive tape before entering the exam hall.

Amid high-tech measures like CCTV surveillance and facial recognition, the humble nose ring appears to have emerged as the latest "threat" to exam integrity. Students said they were stopped at the entrance and given two options — remove the ornament or have it taped. Many alleged that staff went ahead and applied gum tape directly on their noses. TNN

Metro at 3am for Sunday's 10K run

Bengaluru: Metro services will start early morning for participants of TCS World 10K Bengaluru, scheduled on April 26 (Sunday). BMRCL said trains from Bommasandra (Yellow Line) will start at 3am, while from Madavara (Green Line) and Whitefield (Purple Line) will begin at 3.20am and 3.30am, respectively.

Services from Silk Institute (Green Line) will start at 3.30am and Challaghatta (Purple Line) at 3.35am. Trains will operate at 15-minute intervals during the first hour, officials said. TNN

METRO WRAP

Guard held for apmt burglaries

Bagalur police arrested a security guard involved in multiple burglaries and recovered gold and silver ornaments worth Rs 7.6 lakh from Shivaraju, 28. He allegedly stole valuables from a house in Brigade El Dorado apartment in Aerospace Park, Huvinayakanahalli, by entering through a bathroom window in March, police said. Shivaraju was working as a guard in the apartment.

Delivery agents held for molesting women

A day after a video showing two scooter-borne youths molesting a girl walking by the roadside in Kogilu near Yelahanka, police Thursday arrested two food-delivery agents in their 20s — Harish from Singanayakanahalli and R Prajwal from Avalahalli. Police traced them with the help of the licence plate of their gearless scooter. "They confessed to molesting the woman on Marutinagar Main Road," an officer said.

Man dies in fight over missing pigeons

A 28-year-old man died of stab injuries after a fight over missing pigeons in Laggere, Rajagopalnagar. Five youths were arrested on charges of stabbing private company employee Mallikarjun Rao to death using a dagger. Police said Mallikarjun was helping his friend, Prashant, trace over a dozen pigeons, which had gone missing from his house. Prashant suspected a youth from the area, Surendra, to have stolen them. When he questioned Surendra, a fight broke out and one of Prashant's friends stabbed Mallikarjun.

Baby dies of ant bites?

A week-old preterm baby boy died at Cheluvamba Hospital in Mysuru, sparking a controversy after the parents alleged he died due to ant bites. The hospital denied the claim, saying the marks on the infant's body were caused by endotracheal intubation.

Mysuru Medical College and Research Institute has ordered a postmortem and inquiry to determine the exact cause of death. The baby, born at 28 weeks on April 15, was undergoing ICU treatment for respiratory complications. Doctors said the parents raised concerns after noticing marks and spotting an ant near the incubator.

Homestay members told not to inform cops: Woman

▶Continued from page 1

Probe revealed the woman was too shocked to react and the accused tried to hush up the incident. The US tourist reportedly told police the homestay members told her: "...not to inform police, not to consult the doctor and not to talk to anybody." She was forced to stay in the homestay for four days after the incident.

Se had come to India to explore tourist places and had booked Devi Villa through Airbnb after getting positive feedback from a US-based female colleague. She, and her colleague, had stayed in the Kutta homestay from March 22 to 24 before coming to Bengaluru. On April 12, she returned to the homestay, this time as a solo traveller. On reaching the homestay at 1pm by taxi, she was allotted a tent by owner Vishal's mother as he was not present at that time.

She said she was assaulted between 1.30pm and 3pm on April 12. In the evening, she walked towards the swimming pool trying to connect to WiFi when the accused tried to offer her a candy bar. "I told him to get away from me; I did not eat it, but broke it and kept it aside. During that time, Vishal gave me the WiFi password." The woman did not inform Vishal what had happened with her as she was not sure now he would react. She texted her friend in the US.

"At 9.50pm, I called my friend in the US. He suggested I bring the matter to the notice of Vishal and others from his family. The same man (Brijesh) entered my tent and tried to give me a vitamin C tablet. I screamed and ran into the main house. I asked Vishal to give me a room so I could lock myself in," she stated. It was only on April 16 she could leave the place in a taxi arranged by Vishal. On reaching Mysuru, she got in touch with a citizen liaison volunteer for US citizens as her American friend had already informed the consulate.

Flyers landed at KIA with protected species

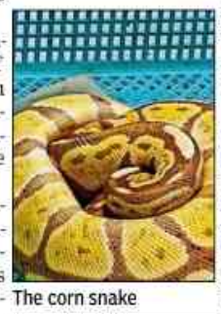
▶Continued from page 1

When Lavanya was asked to present her passport and baggage, she hesitated. When questioned, she pointed to her co-passenger, Bhagya Lakshmaiah, as the person carrying her passport. Sensing trouble, Bhagya attempted to flee but was apprehended.

Both the passengers — Lavanya Naganna, a resident of Gubbi taluk in Tumakuru district, and Bhagya Lakshmaiah, 41, a resident of Dasarahalli in Bengaluru — were taken into custody.

Their baggage search uncovered one of the most diverse wildlife seizures in recent months. Authorities found a wide range of protected and non-native species, many regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and India's Wildlife (Protection) Act. Among the tortoises and turtles seized were two leopard tortoises, 20 African spurred tortoises, 11 red-footed tortoises, one Aldabra giant tortoise and 10 pig-nosed turtles. Officials also recovered large numbers of painted turtles, red-eared slider turtles, Chinese pond turtles and Ouachita map turtles, some of which fall under Appendix III or domestic wildlife schedules.

Officials seized 51 blue iguanas — a critically endangered species listed under Appendix I of CITES. The consignment also included a Cuvier's dwarf caiman and two Nile monitor lizards. "Snake species were recovered, including six ball pythons, four green tree pythons, one white-lipped python and nine corn snakes. Other reptiles included seven American five-lined skinks, one fire skink and four Sudan plated lizards. One skink was dead, indicating the harsh and inhumane conditions in which the animals were transported," said an official. Officials said scale of the seizure point to a well-organised smuggling network catering to illegal pet trade.



The corn snake

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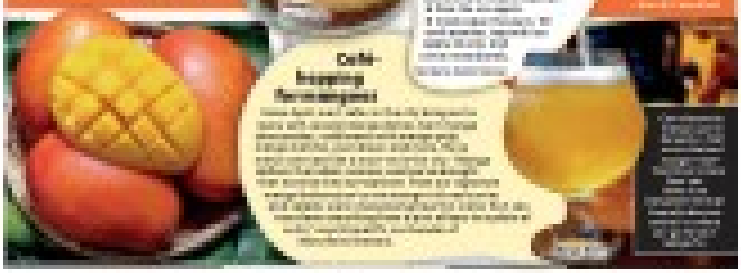
Mangoes dominate the city's summer menus



Theatre fest spotlights Vijay Tendulkar in short acts

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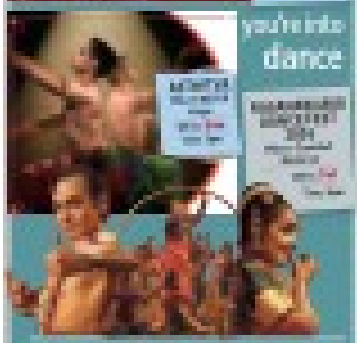

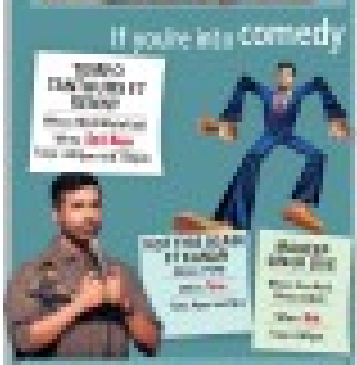

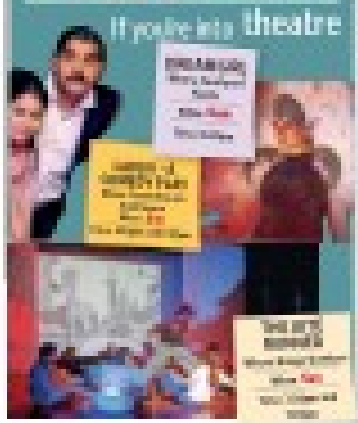

Segregation rules disrupt collection of waste

Nithya.Mandyam
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Bengaluru: Conflict between Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) and its contractors has escalated into a full-blown civic crisis, with garbage piling up across the city. Officials from Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have now stepped in, with one of them stating, "There is a clear breakdown in coordination between the implementing agency and contractors."

The dispute, which has disrupted door-to-door waste collection in multiple wards, is over compliance with waste segregation norms.

BSWML says contractors must adhere to rules mandating segregation at source and during collection, while contractors argue that inconsistent directives and impractical enforcement have made operations unviable.

A GBA official said the lack of clarity, particularly shifting instructions on collecting wet, dry and sanitary waste on different days, has created confusion among sanitation workers. In March, more than 300 workers went on strike, protesting against the additional burden of waste segregation being imposed on collection staff. Contractors temporarily halted operations, alleging worker exploitation.

The crisis is compounded by a shortage of resources. "A ward ideally requires 20 waste collection vehicles, but only 12-13 are operational. In addition, many vehicles are running without cleaners, forcing drivers to undertake both driving and waste collection duties."

Kari Gowda, CEO of BSWML, said, "We are considering a series of corrective measures, including redeployment of officials, streamlining of contracts and better monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance without disrupting operations. There is also a proposal to reassess the vehicle and manpower requirements ward-wise."

TOI

In March, more than 300 collection staff went on strike against the extra burden of waste segregation

Officers accused of graft over tender

Bengaluru: The high court Thursday heard a petition that accused two IAS officers — Kari Gowda, CEO of BSWML, and Tushar Girinath, ACS of urban development dept — of seeking illegal gratification for issuing the tender notified by BSWML on March 25. SN Balasubramaniam, who claims to be the lowest bidder, stated in his petition that on March 10, Gowda explained to him in detail the "formalities and obligations" he needed to fulfil if he wanted the tender. These included 3% of the price bid to be paid to board members, another 3% to Girinath and his urban development dept, and 9% to the govt.

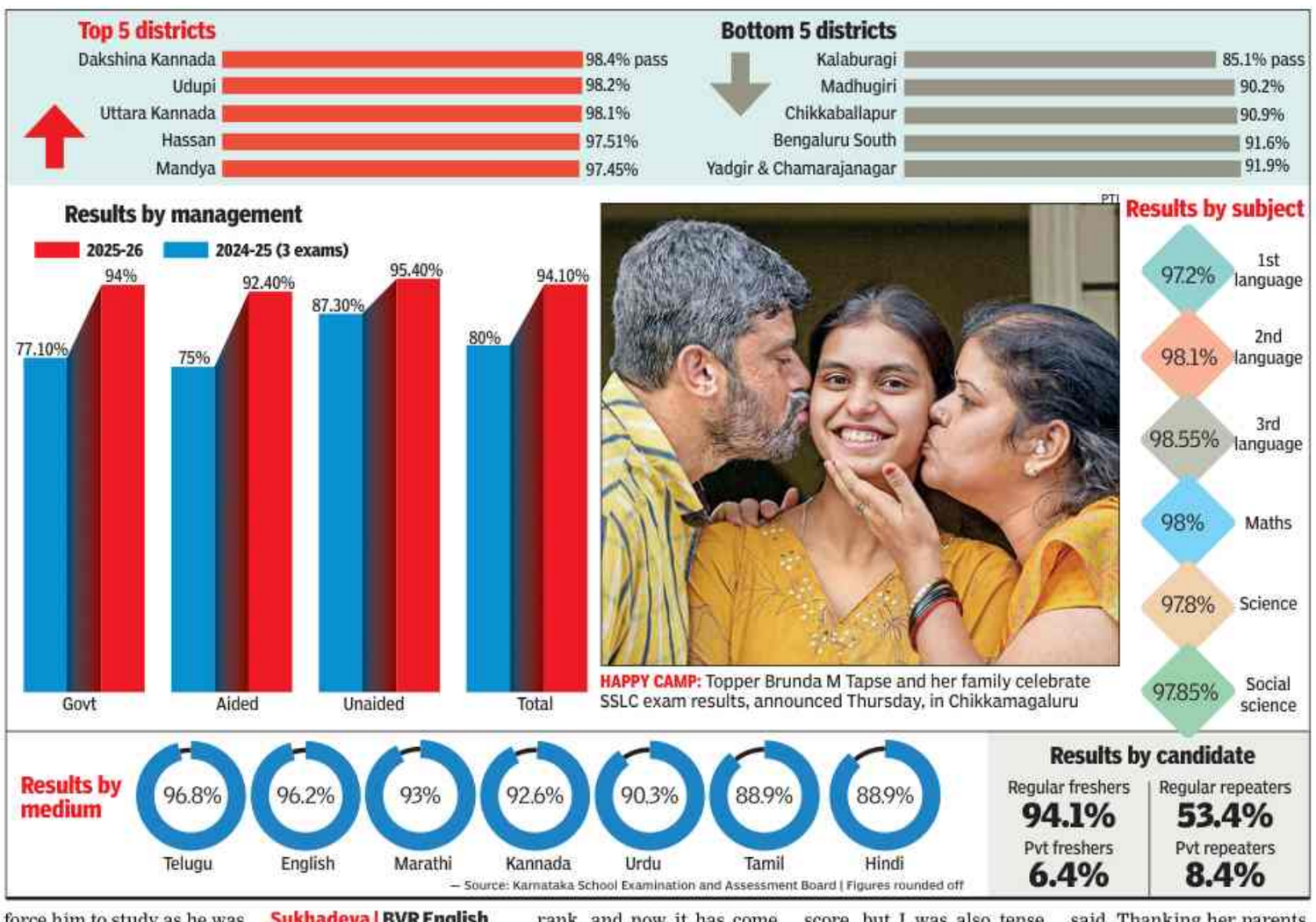
Balasubramaniam said he submitted a representation to the chief secretary seeking action against the two IAS officers, but nothing was done. Advocate general Shashikiran Shetty said on March 10, Gowda was not in Bengaluru and presented his flight tickets as proof showing his travel to New Delhi. Counsel for the petitioner said he was ready to file affidavit in support of his claim. The court will continue to hear the matter Friday. TNN

SSLC RESULTS Seven From Across State Hit Perfect Score, Their Diverse Journeys United By Consistency & Academic Focus

625 Club: Discipline Drives Toppers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

From big cities to small towns, Karnataka's seven SSLC toppers share a common thread — discipline, consistency and strong support, both at home and school. Their stories, spanning diverse backgrounds, underline how focus, clear goals and steady effort can overcome constraints and turn ambition into exceptional academic success.



PTI

HAPPY CAMP: Topper Brunda M Tapse and her family celebrate SSLC exam results, announced Thursday, in Chikkamagaluru

Dhanush Sudhir Mysore | Poorna Prajna Education Centre (Bengaluru)

Consistent revision, focused study habits, and an unusual method of learning by teaching peers helped Dhanush Sudhir Mysore secure a perfect score of 625/625 in the SSLC examinations. Dhanush, who emerged as the sole topper from Bengaluru, attributed his success to regularly revising lessons taught in class rather than relying on last-minute preparation. "I mostly studied in school and at tuition. At home, I didn't spend very long hours, but whenever I studied, I made sure I was fully concentrating," he said.

Dhanush credits a significant part of his performance to helping classmates with their studies. Explaining concepts to others reinforced his own understanding and retention. "Teaching my friends helped me remember a lot more from the syllabus," he noted.

Dhanush now plans to pursue science stream with computer science and aims to crack the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) to study engineering. Beyond academics, he maintains a range of interests, including table tennis, chess, and playing the keyboard.

His father Sudhir S Mysore works as a software professional. "Being from a middle-class family, we decided that it would be best for our son to study in a state board school like us instead of international schools with ICSE or CBSE syllabus. The curriculum of the Karnataka board has improved a lot," he said, adding that the couple was particular about the company their son would be around at school. "Before the exams, I advised Dhanush to think from the evaluator's perspective so that his answers were clear and easy to evaluate. As parents, we did not have to force him to study as he was quite independent. In fact, we asked him to take regular breaks," he added.

Bharath G | Sri Vidyalakshmi English-Medium High School (Davanagere)

As a kid from a small village with big dreams, Bharath's journey is the kind that turns heads across the state. Hailing from Kanivebilachi in Channagiri taluk, he grew up with the single ambition of becoming a doctor and helping those struggling to access healthcare. Every day, Bharath travelled to Vidyalakshmi School in nearby Kabbal, balancing studies with the realities of a modest life. His father, Girish, a daily-wage labourer, and his mother, Shilpa, stood firm behind him despite financial challenges, and their belief paid off. Bharath didn't just pass, he topped the SSLC exam, surpassing all expectations. "He has been studying in our school from class one... all of us are proud of him," said headmistress Lakshmidevi AN.

Sukhadeva | BVR English Medium School (Raichur)

By scoring 625/625 in SSLC, Sukhadeva, a student of BVR High School in Manvi town, has turned out to be a celebrity of sorts in Kalyana Karnataka region. His mother Chandrakala is a Kannada teacher at a govt high school while his father, Parashuram, works as a guest lecturer at a private college. Celebrations broke out at the school and in the locality after the results were announced, with teachers and district in-charge minister NS Boseraju, along with the general public, congratulating and honouring the boy. Family support is said to have played a key role in his achievement.

Prarthana Nagappa Biradar Patil | Govt High School (Belagavi)

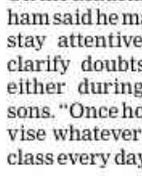
Not many kids of teachers emerge toppers, but Prarthana is an exception. Her father is a teacher at the same village school where she studied. "It was my wish to study in Kannada medium and get a rank, and now it has come true. My interest in reading, studying paid off. I want to become a doctor," she said. School headmaster GA Khot said her achievement comes as a shot in the arm for Kannada schools on the border. The school had also rolled out a new concept called 'Oduva Mane' (reading house), undertaken with the aim of creating an environment conducive to the growth of rank achievers in Chikkodi educational district.

Preetham G Poojary | Mother Theresa Memorial School (Udupi)

Setting small, consistent goals and meeting them without fail helped Preetham turn ambition into achievement, securing a perfect score of 625 in the SSLC exam. Son of Ganapathi Poojary, a private bus conductor, and Nagaratna, a homemaker, he credits his success to a structured approach to studies and disciplined execution of daily, weekly, and monthly targets. "I was aiming for a perfect score, but I was also tense about whether I would achieve it. I was confident of scoring above 620, but I had doubts because of my handwriting," Preetham told **TOI**. He recalled how his Kannada teacher, Vaishali, had been advising him since class 7 to improve his handwriting. "I worked on it but still felt that if I lost marks, it might be because of my handwriting," he said. On the academic front, Preetham said he made it a point to stay attentive in class and clarify doubts immediately, either during or after lessons. "Once home, I would revise whatever was taught in class every day," he said.

Brunda M Tapse | St Mary's High School (C'magaluru)

The results did not come as a surprise here, for Brunda's family was confident she would emerge a topper. "I expected the result and prepared so as to get full marks," she said. Thanking her parents, Manjunath Tapse and Harshini, and teachers, Brunda said she spent around seven hours a day studying. She gave equal importance to all subjects and never neglected any one. In addition, she would set goals every day and ensure that all the topics were revised. She wants to continue in the science stream and is planning to pursue higher studies in engineering.



Saujanya Basavaraj Kandakur | Oxford School-Nagarabetta (Vijayapura)

Saujanya hails from Hunagund town in the neighbouring Bagalkot district and is the daughter of Basavaraj Kandakur, a retired govt school teacher, and Girija Kotagi, also a teacher. "I was expecting to top the state. I studied regularly during the hostel's daily study hours along with my classmates. The guidance of my teachers and the encouragement from my parents helped me achieve this," said Saujanya, who aspires to be a doctor.

Amid K'taka's rethink on Hindi, students score better than ever

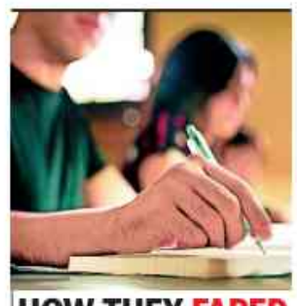
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Amid last-minute confusion over the state govt's proposal to introduce a grading system in place of marks for Hindi subject in SSLC (class 10) exams, the 2026 results have thrown up an unexpected twist. Despite govt push for a two-language formula that seeks to contain the dominance of Hindi in the curriculum, the pass percentage in the subject has surged to 98.6% from 87.5% in 2025, raising fresh questions about the broader implications of language policy on learning outcomes.

According to data released by school education and literacy minister Madhu Bangarappa, Karnataka recorded an over 11-percentage-point jump in Hindi performance. Of the over 7 lakh students who appeared for the subject, around 6.9 lakh cleared it. "In 2025, the failure rate in Hindi stood at 13% (around 75,000 students). This has dropped sharply to just 1.3% (around 9,000 students) in 2026," a senior official from the department said.

The dramatic improvement complicates the long-standing argument by critics that making Hindi mandatory places an additional burden on non-native speakers, particularly Kannada-medium students in rural areas. The 2026 results indicate a broad-based rise in performance across regions, including rural schools.

The outcome has triggered mixed reactions, with calls for a closer examination of the factors behind the surge. While some attribute the improvement to better teaching methods, remedial measures and exam-focused preparation, pro-Kannada groups maintain that the results do not settle the larger policy debate. They argue that concerns over linguistic imposition remain, even as the state moves ahead with plans to introduce a grading system for Hindi from the coming academic year.



HOW THEY FARED

2025
- **6 lakh** candidates appeared
- **5.2 lakh** passed
- **87.5%** pass rate
- **75,792** failed
- **12.6%** fail rate

2026
- **7 lakh** candidates appeared
- **6.9 lakh** passed
- **98.6%** pass rate
- **9,481** failed
- **1.3%** fail rate

Results complicate the long-standing argument by critics that making Hindi mandatory places an additional burden on non-native speakers

ICU to exam success: Girl secures Ist class

Ranganath K | TNN

Kolar: While most students walked into their SSLC exam halls with pens and hall tickets, **Kusuma S** alias Kusumanjali arrived in an ambulance. Recovering from serious injuries and still under medical care, the KGF student turned adversity into achievement, scoring first class and inspiring many with her grit.

Kusuma, a student of St Mary's High School in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), secured 374 out of 625 marks in the exams. She earned B grade in Kannada, Hindi, and mathematics, and C+ in other subjects. Her journey has been anything but easy. In Sept last year, she met with a serious accident, sustaining grievous injuries to her leg, thigh, and hips. She underwent multiple major surgeries and spent months in recovery. Just weeks after being discharged, she developed an infection and was hospitalised again in Dec. Doctors advised that further surgeries would be required once her wounds healed.

Determined not to lose an academic year, she continued her studies from her hospital bed with permission from the school authorities and the education department. Her teachers sent notes, assignments, and homework to her mobile phone. With support from classmates, she managed to keep up with the coursework.

Arrived in ambulance

As the exams approached, Kusuma made a firm decision — to appear for them, no matter the challenge. Her teachers coordinated with the department to facilitate her participation, while her parents sought special provisions. After reviewing her records, the authorities permitted her to write the exams with the assistance of a scribe.

On exam days, she was brought to the centre by ambulance. Now, as the results are out, Kusuma, who continues to be hospitalised, has expressed satisfaction and gratitude towards her teachers and classmates for their constant support.

Min: Lower passing marks helped just 1,532 students

▶ Continued from page 1

Madhu Bangarappa said, "Since we have achieved good results, there will not be a third exam this year." He added that students who failed would be exempt from paying exam fees for the second SSLC exam, scheduled from May 18 to 25. The govt has waived fees for students seeking to improve their scores in the third language in the supplementary exam. In 2025, the state conducted two successive supplementary exams to help improve pass percentages.

The minister attributed the improved results to targeted interventions such as recruitment of guest teachers, mega parent-teacher meetings, and uniform statewide preparatory exams. Addressing concerns over the reduction in passing marks from 35 to 33, he clarified that only 1,532 students benefited from the change. While the number of students failing in a single subject has increased compared with last year, there has been a significant drop in those failing multiple subjects. The number of students failing in all six subjects declined from 37,000 last year to 7,400 this year. "Schools are ready to help students who have failed. We, too, have lost elections and won later," Bangarappa said, assuring support for unsuccessful students.

BIG IMPROVEMENT IN KALYANA KARNATAKA

Kalyana Karnataka, which often features among the lowest performing regions, has improved significantly this year. Yadgir has recorded 91.9% passes — a 29.8% rise compared to last year. Kalaburagi has secured 85.1%, with a progress of 28.2% from last year. Raichur has improved from 75% to 94.4% and Bidar has risen from 73.4% to 92.2% this year. The combined pass percentage of the seven districts of Kalyana Karnataka region is 91.6%.

Joy cut short for Kolar student

Kolar: The joy of clearing his SSLC exams lasted only a few hours for Kiran, a boy from Sonnawadi village in Mulbagal taluk, before tragedy struck. Kiran drowned in an open well around 1.30pm Thursday, just hours after the results were declared. Kiran and his friends had gone to a village well to celebrate the exam results, sources said. As Kiran did not know how to swim, his friends tied a wooden log to help him float. After a few attempts at swimming independently, Kiran removed the wooden log and jumped into the well. When he did not resurface after a couple of minutes, a frantic search began. He was later found trapped beneath the steps of the well. "By then, he had lost his breath," said V Lakshmaiah, Kiran's headmaster at Govt High School, Mulbagal. The headmaster said Kiran was a soft-spoken boy who was eager to learn. "He walked 3km daily from his village to attend school," he said.

Board's blind error costs student her result

Karwar: A glaring error in SSLC results has left a visually impaired student from Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district distressed after she was wrongly marked absent in one subject. Lieza Khanam, a student at Union Urdu High School in Sirsi, appeared for all the exams, but her result recorded her as absent for social science, leading to her being declared failed! Her parents were shocked as Lieza's exam attendance was confirmed by the invigilator's signature on the admission ticket. Despite the error, she performed brilliantly in other subjects, scoring 100 in Kannada, 92 in English, 98 in Economics, and 92 in Political Science, securing a total of 526 marks (84.1%).

Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board acknowledged the lapse, calling it a "technical error". Officials said the issue would be rectified within a day or two after tracing the missing answer script.

Oppn targets Priyank over K'buragi's performance

Bengaluru: The SSLC results have triggered a political slugfest in Karnataka, with Kalaburagi once again at the bottom of the charts, recording a pass rate of 85.1%. The outcome has put district in-charge minister Priyank Kharge in the spotlight, as opposition parties BJP and JD(S) launched sharp attacks. JD(S) leaders accused him of failing his own district despite the Kharge family's long political dominance. "Decades of control, yet no progress in education," they said, citing poor infrastructure, teacher shortages and the lack of a conducive learning environment. JD(S) sarcastically asked Kharge to include the result among his "achievements", accusing him of pushing Kalaburagi into "educational darkness" and urging him to back his speeches with action. BJP also joined in, trolling Kharge on social media and highlighting that Kalaburagi has ranked last for the second consecutive year.

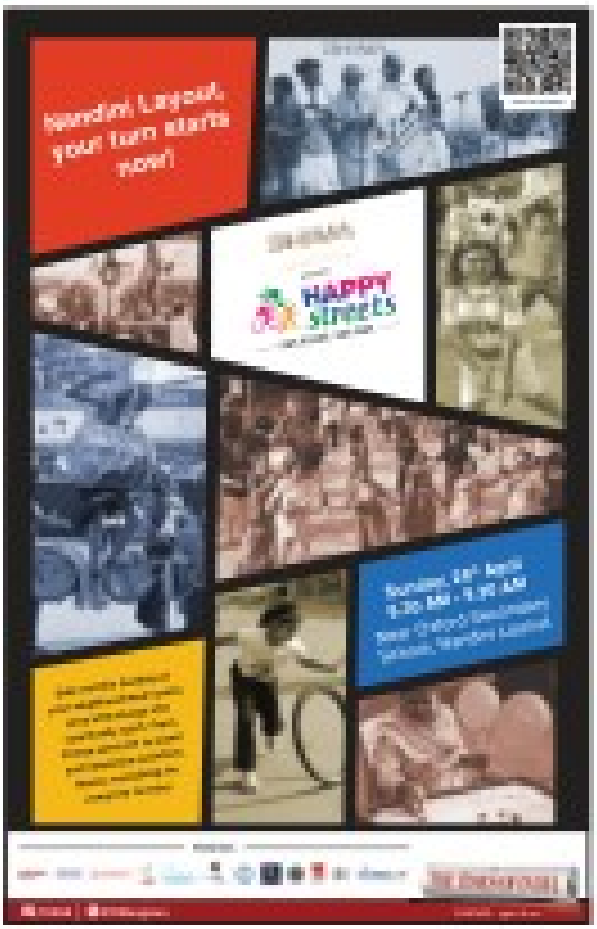
From personal tragedy to SSLC triumph

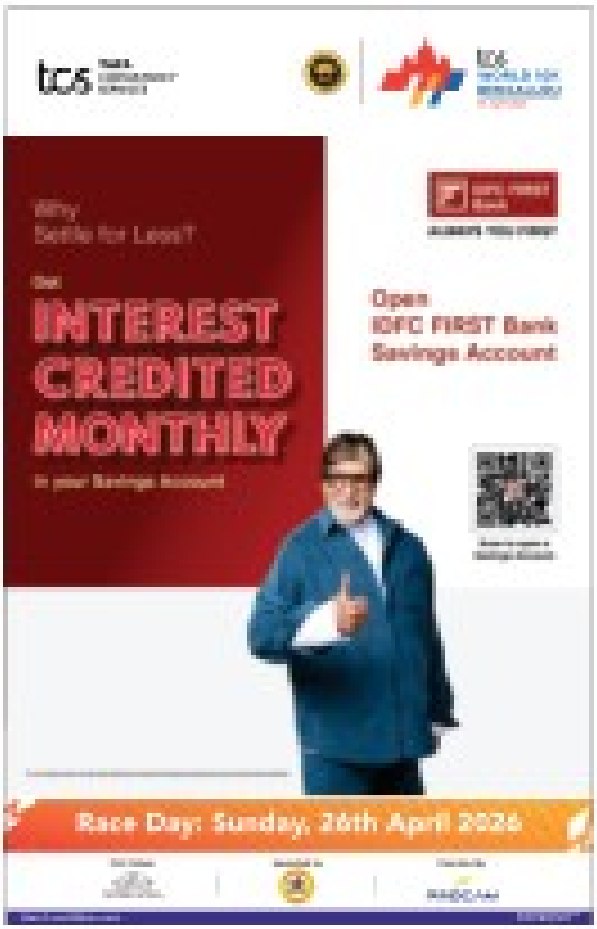
Mysuru: In a remarkable display of dedication, a govt school teacher from HD Kote conducted special classes for her students just hours after the death of her husband, ahead of SSLC maths exam.

Her effort bore fruit as all 57 students passed the exam. The highest score in maths was 91 out of 100. "Credit should go to the students and parents," said Jyothi K, maths teacher and in-charge headmistress.

Two days before the exam, her husband Kiran Kumar, a resident of Dattagalli in Mysuru, died. Despite the personal loss, Jyothi returned to school the next morning and taught for nearly nine hours. Block education officer CN Raju called her a true role model.

Walkathon blends fitness with mental well-being

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TIMES NATION

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

STATES MOVING TOWARDS UCC IMPLEMENTATION BASED ON CONSTITUTION: UNION MINISTER KURIAN

ANDHRA CM NAIDU LAYS FOUNDATION FOR ₹5,400 CR SOLAR MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN ANAKAPALLI

HACK OF THE DAY **RUN CHROME'S HIDDEN SAFETY CHECK**

WHAT IT SOLVES: Helps you catch unsafe settings, risky passwords, and browser security problems without manually hunting through menus

WHAT TO DO: Run Chrome Safety Check on your phone once in a while instead of assuming the browser is already set up safely

STEPS:

1. **Open** Chrome on your phone
2. **Go to** Settings and then Safety Check
3. **Review** the items Chrome flags
4. **Fix** any issue related to passwords, updates, safe browsing, or site security
5. **Repeat** this occasionally, especially after installing many new apps or extensions elsewhere

NOTE: Most people never open this. That is exactly why it is useful

SCAN FOR MORE

Hacks are based on verified public sources. Readers are advised to follow official websites & updated rules

Agitators apply tilak on store staff

More than two dozen agitators, including women, entered Lenskart's outlet in Indore on Thursday and applied tilak on the staff, telling them to don religious symbols without fear. Some of the protesters — who claimed they were from World Hindu Federation — even broke the spectacles they had earlier purchased from the brand. The bizarre show of dissent came days after Lenskart withdrew its dress code policy that allegedly restricted the use of symbols like tilak, bindi, and kalawa by employees. "This policy has been in place for the last 14 years, but it came to light only after people started protesting. Today, when we went in, we found that women employees were not wearing bindis." WHF chief Sanjay Agarwal said. TNN

STATOISTICS A slice of life in numbers

85% of India's local livestock breeds could be lost for good

Globally, very few local livestock breeds have enough stored genetic material (stored semen, embryos, etc.) to help bring them back in case of extinction

80 of 118 reporting areas* have zero breeds backed up

COUNTRY	LOCAL BREEDS	BACKED UP	SHARE
China	872	96	11.0%
India	**297**	**44**	**14.8%**
Indonesia	173	9	5.2%
Sri Lanka	20	0	0.0%

*Some 'reporting areas' are territories, not sovereign nations. Backed up means enough genetic material stored for full reconstitution if the breed is lost. Source: UN

Yogi to be BJP's face for UP '27

'Confident Of Returning To Govt'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: BJP chief Nitin Nabin's assertion that chief minister Yogi Adityanath will be the party's face for the 2027 UP assembly election has swung the arc lights back on the saffron outfit's practice of underscoring its clarity on leadership issues besides setting out its political narrative well ahead of the polls, due early next year.

Speaking to "News 18" on the sidelines of polling in West Bengal on Thursday, Nabin said: "Look, he (Yogi) is our chief minister, and the govt is being run under his leadership. So, naturally, the faces will remain the same," the BJP chief said, adding that the party is confident of returning to govt for a third time under Yogi's leadership.

He said the state has witnessed a turnaround under Yogi. "A state once known for extortion and crime is today recognised for its improved law and order and expressways," Nitin Nabin said.

CM Yogi Adityanath

Political analysts said Nabin's statement underpinned BJP's stand that the next assembly elections would be fought squarely on the issue of Adityanath's leadership, turning the forthcoming poll battle into a direct judgment on Yogi's governance rather than a fragmented, multi-issue contest.

Besides reaffirming Yogi's status of being the party's central figure in UP, Nabin's stance removes ambiguity about leadership, if any, while seeking to consolidate party cadres around clear authority well ahead an intense battle.

Space dominance key to fighting with foresight: CDS Chauhan

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: Emphasising that space is a strategic domain today, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said that "if we fail in space, we will be forced to fight blind. However, if we dominate in space, we will fight with foresight".

Making a virtual statement at Indian DefSpace Symposium titled "Strengthening India's Defence and Space Industry Synergy" here, he said, "Technology is no longer just an enabler. It's reshaping the very calculus of power. In this emerging paradigm, space is no longer a support function. 'a strategic field that influences defence, escalation control and war-fighting outcomes.'

Amid reports that Iran has integrated navigation satellite system to boost accuracy of its missiles , he said, "Space has evolved into a derivative capability, where services generated by one nation can be leveraged by multiple factors, state as well as non-state alike."

Ex-help hit victim with lamp, dragged her to open storage with fingerprints

Abhay@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: He slipped into the south Delhi house in the morning. There he found her alone, bludgeoned her with a lamp, raped her as she lay unconscious, and then dragged her downstairs to force open a biometric safe before fleeing with cash and jewellery.

The accused, a former house help, in the rape and murder case of a senior bureaucrat's daughter in a south Delhi home allegedly revealed these chilling details during police interrogation.

The autopsy confirmed injuries on the woman's head and body, along with abrasions and a nasal bone fracture. The cause of death was asphyxia due to ante-mortem strangulation, which investigators believe was inflicted using a mobile phone charger cable. Sources said he showed no remorse during interrogation, claiming he attacked the victim because she "did not give him money." He reportedly offered no explanation for the sexual assault.

The accused said he gained entry early in the morning and headed directly to the rooftop study room. She was awake and studying at that time. When the woman asked why he was in the house, he lied that mother had told him to come and collect some pending salary.

"The encounter quickly turned violent. He attempted to overpower the woman to commit sexual assault. When she resisted, he used a study lamp to bludgeon her, rendering her unconscious. In this state, he raped her," police sources said.

The suspect then attempted to access a biometric locker in the house that required a thumbprint. He dragged the bleeding, unconscious victim down the stairs to the lower floor where the safe was located.

"He repeatedly pressed her blood-stained fingers against the sensor, but the locker failed to open; investigators believe this was because the victim had likely already succumbed to her injuries, causing her blood circulation to cease. Failing to bypass the biometric lock, he used a screwdriver to force the safe open, stealing a significant amount of cash and jewellery, which he packed into a bag found in the house," sources added.

Before fleeing, he noticed his dress and shoes were covered in blood; he changed into a pair of trousers belonging to the victim's brother and a pair of slippers found on the premises.

While the suspect initially claimed his primary motive was robbery, investigators suspect the attack was premeditated and driven by an intent to commit both sexual violence and rob the place from where he was fired 6 weeks ago.

₹7 LAKH DEBT

- **Locker didn't respond to the victim's fingerprints,** likely because of cessation of blood circulation
- Accused **forced open safe,** stole cash and jewellery
- Discarded blood-stained outfit; **changed into victim's brother's clothes**
- Accused **addicted to online gambling;** debt of ₹7 lakh

Not abandoned by govt during 2020 LAC standoff: Naravane

Surendra.Singh
@timesofindia.com

New Delhi: After the controversy surrounding his unpublished book 'Four Stars of Destiny', former Army chief General MM Naravane (Retd) told news channels in separate interviews on Wednesday that it was "totally unfair to drag me and the armed forces into politics" by using an unpublished book to score points and asserted that he had not been abandoned by govt at the height of the 2020 standoff with China.

He spoke candidly about Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi brandishing a copy of his unpublished memoir in Parliament to attack Modi govt over the issue.

Naravane, who has written a new book, 'The Curious and the Classified: Unearthing Military Myths and Mysteries', said he had govt's full backing and authority to open fire on Chinese soldiers if the situation so warranted during the LAC standoff with China.

"The person at the helm is always alone, whether it's a CEO or the leader of a country. But that does not mean you have been abandoned. The whole country is behind you, your whole army is with you," he said. The remarks came a few months after Rahul tried to slam govt by citing extracts from Naravane's unpublished book.

'Terrorist' remark on PM: Kharge replies to EC showcause notice

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday sent his reply to Election Commission on the showcause notice issued by the poll watchdog. The notice was sent over Kharge's "terrorist" remark about PM Modi at a press meet in Chennai.

Denying that there was any violation of model code of conduct (MCC), Congress has told EC that Kharge had clarified that his remark about Modi being a "terrorist" was made in the context of Modi "terrorising people and political parties" through threats of agencies like ED, IT and CBI, and by wanting to take over delimitation in his own hands. Congress also sought a week's time to file a detailed reply to the show-cause notice issued to Kharge on Wednesday.

Congress also told EC that while controversial statements made by PM and Home Minister Amit Shah have escaped its attention, it is ever vigilant to slights against the two BJP leaders from Opposition. In the reply to showcause notice, Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said clarification on his remark was available, and the EC notice appeared to have been hastily issued without application of mind by officials. He called it "deliberate overlooking" of the explanation of the context in which Kharge had used the word (terrorist). "Unfortunately, it smacks of ulterior motives," Ramesh said.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Roopa Shetty, W/o Manjunath Kundagol R/o 230 Mahamane Badavane, Hubballi-Dharwad city 580003, declare that in my passport, my full name "Roopa Shetty" has been wrongly entered entirely in the Given Name field. My correct name shall be read as: Given Name: Roopa | Surname: Shetty

I, Nazeem Shaik have changed the name of my son Mohammed Arib Nawaz to Arib Nawaz Shaik R/o Old No 99 New 16 Near Gramapanchayat Waddarahatti Taluk Gangavathi, Koppal 583227 vide Affidavit dated 15.04.2026 before Notary Public/Bangalore

I, Arjun V S/O V. Maroli born on 21 February 1981 residing at Flat No. 207, Palm Court Jakkur Plantation Jakkur Post Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560064, have changed my name to Arjun Valsaraj Maroli vide affidavit dated 18-03-2025 at Bangalore

MY name is Murali Krishna Krishnappa, on DL it is Murali Krishna K. Upon renewal the last letter 'K' should be expanded as Krishnappa, as in Aadhar.

I, Farhana Begum, R/o Bangalore, Karnataka, have changed my name from Farhana Begum to Farhana Taj for all future purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, Vinay Babu.V S/o Venkatashiva Reddy.V R/a #32, 9th main,10th cross, opp to community institute of management studies 2nd block jayanagar Bangalore-11, have lost my Properties Original Sale Deed Document, No. BNG (U)-KNGR-10533/2003-2004. Dated: 22.10.2001. Property Situated Near HK International School of Site no. 20, V.P.Khata no. 41, uttarahalli village, uttarahalli hobli, Bangalore South taluk, Bounded by East: Narayanappa's property, West: road, North: Gopalakrishna's property, South: halla. Measuring East to west: on northern side 60-0 ft, On Southern side 71-0 ft, north to south: on eastern side 92-0 ft, on western side 136-0 ft, lost while traveling at Banashankari 3rd Stage, on 10.4.2025, if anybody found please call: 9900092349 9945224058 / near police station

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GET NOTICED

RAIL WHEEL FACTORY
Website: www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in
TENDER NOTICE NO. RWF/W/26-27/02 dtd. 21.04.2026

E- TENDERS: On Behalf of the President of India, the Dy. Chief Engineer invites electronic tender for the following works online through the website **http://www.ireps.gov.in** (Works).

Tender No. W.496/RWF/YNK/1081
Description : Upgradation of existing Rail Wheel Factory Hospital. (Phase-I). Estimated Value : Rs. 31188562.24
EMD Amount : Rs. 623800.00
Closing Date & Time : 15-05-2026 at 15:00 hrs.
This tender notice can be viewed on our website **www.rwf.indianrailways.gov.in**

Dy. Chief Engineer

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि., संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर मु. बाँसवाड़ा

क्रमांक : डी-100 | दिनांक : 18.04.26

निविदा संशोधन-02
निविदा सूचना संख्या 01 / 2026-27
NIB No. PWD2627A0028

इस कार्यालय के क्रमांक डी-17 दिनांक 02.04.2026 द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/ EPC Mode/ 2026-27 में अंकित कार्य की तिथियों में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है तथा वित्त विभाग के परिपत्र क्रमांक प.4(9)वित्त /साविलेनि / 2026 दिनांक 23.03.26 में वर्णित सभी शर्तें उक्त निविदा में प्रभावी रहेंगी।

विवरण	पूर्व में दिनांक	संशोधित दिनांक
ऑनलाइन निविदा आवेदन/ डाउनलोड करने की दिनांक	07 अप्रैल 2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 20 अप्रैल 2026, अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक	07 अप्रैल 2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 27 अप्रैल 2026, अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा जमा कराने की दिनांक	07 अप्रैल 2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 20 अप्रैल 2026, अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक	07 अप्रैल 2026 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 27 अप्रैल 2026, अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक
ऑनलाइन निविदा खोलने की दिनांक	21 अप्रैल, 2026 दोपहर 03:00 बजे	28 अप्रैल, 2026 दोपहर 03:00 बजे

UBN:- PWD2627WLOB00104
निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

(भेरूलाल भेणिया)
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
सा.नि.वि. संभाग द्वितीय उदयपुर, मुख्यालय बाँसवाड़ा

DIPR/C/7371/2026

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION CHANDIGARH

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Bid Submission Schedule (Online)	Opening Technical Bid (Online)
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 2			
1.	Re-carpeting of various Road and Parking under jurisdiction of Road Sub Division No. 5, M.C, Chandigarh Financial Year 2026-27 (Raising Kerb / channel Work). Est. Cost : Rs. 84.49 Lacs Earnest Money: Rs. 1,68,985/- Time Limit : 06 Months	23.04.2026 To 30.04.2026 upto 12.00 noon	30.04.2026 at 12.00 noon
2.	Renovation of Community Centre Sector 26, Chandigarh. Est. Cost : Rs. 56.46 Lacs Earnest Money: Rs. 1,12,917/- Time Limit : 09 Months	24.04.2026 to 01.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	01.05.2026 at 12.00 noon
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER - Roads Division No. 3			
3.	Construction of Pedestrain path with PCC tiles on internal roads of rehabilitation EWS Colony of 8448 flats zone 3 & 4 Dhanas, Chandigarh. Capital Head : Amenities/Services in Rehabilitation Colonies. Est. Cost : Rs. 166.79 Lacs Earnest Money: Rs. 3,33,579/- Time Limit : 06 Months	23.04.2026 To 07.05.2026 upto 12.00 noon	07.05.2026 at 15.00 PM

Note :- 1) Tender Notice alongwith detailed terms and conditions is available/uploaded on website at www.chandigarh.gov.in or etenders.chd.nic.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Roads Division No.2, Room No. 304, M.C. Chandigarh and
Roads Division No.3, Room No.311, M.C. Chandigarh. Ph. 0172-5021482 xenroad3.mcc@chd.nic.in

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st & 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 560052 E-mail : admswml123@gmail.com

No. BSWML/DGM-04/TEND/ 01/2026-27 | Date: 23.04.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) Short Term – Two Cover Tender (Through GOK KPPP only)

1.The Deputy General Manager-04, BSWML invites tender on behalf of the Managing Director, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML), for the work of Availing services of Assistant Managers/Plant Managers on outsource basis for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML)-10 No's from any reputed firm's/service providers/ suppliers/Companies/ Company registered under Companies Act 1956 are eligible to apply. **2.** The detailed Objectives and the Scope of the Assignment shall be as per Request for Proposal (RFP) Document and it may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** The RFP Document can be downloaded in the Portal on 25.04.2026 Interested Agency who wish to participate shall remit online Transaction Fee for the RFP Document after registering in the Portal. The Transaction Fee is nonrefundable. **3.** Proposals must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement portal on or before **16.00 hours on 02.05.2026** and the Opening of bids will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement portal guidelines. **4.** Other details can be seen in the RFP document.

Sl. No.	Name of the works	Service Charge considered in the tender (in Percentage)	EMD Amount (in Rs)
1	Availing services of Assistant Managers/Plant Managers on outsource basis for Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) -10 No's	5	1,51,200/-

Calendar of Events: 1. Last date for receipt of tenders on **02.05.2026 upto 4.00 pm. 2.** Last date for uploading queries on **27.04.2026 upto 3.00 pm. 3.** Pre-bid meeting on **28.04.2026 at 4.00 pm** at Office of Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), 1st floor, BSWML Office, Reg. Office: 30/1, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Area, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru- 52. **4.**Date of Opening of Technical Bids are on **04.05.2026 after 4.00 pm** or next working day. **5.** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after Approval of Technical Proposals through KPPP.

DIPR/CP/336/NR/2026-27

Sd/- Deputy General Manager-4, BSWML

Food is symbolic of love when words are inadequate to — Alan D Wolfelt

WHAT'S HOT

A EUROPEAN-STYLE HANGOUT COMES ALIVE IN WHITEFIELD

SUDOKU CHALLENGE

9								8
	7		3		6		5	
	3	5				2	7	
		2		9		4		1
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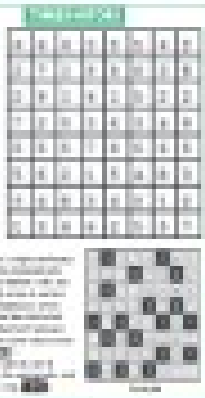
CROSSWORD



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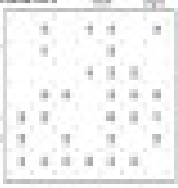

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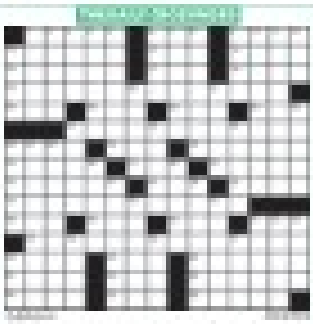
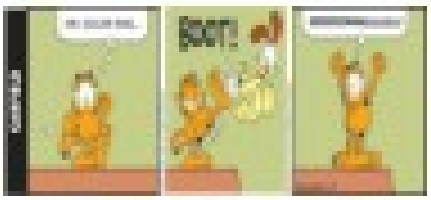
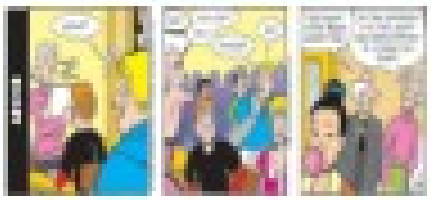
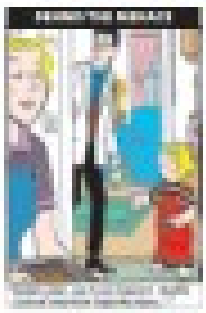




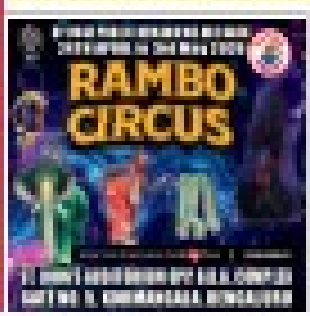


WORD PUZZLE

BRAINTEASER



EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS



Criminal trial not like a fairy tale for flight of fancy: HC

Swati.Deshpande@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The 2006 Malegaon blasts case seems to have reached a dead end, the Bombay HC has said. Citing inherent contradictions in the ATS and NIA cases to discharge four accused 13 years after their arrest in the Sept 8, 2006 blasts case, the HC in its reasoned judgment out late Wednesday night observed that a "criminal trial is not like a fairy tale where one is free to give flight to one's imagination and fantasy."

The blasts at four locations in Nashik's loom town killed 31 and injured 312.

The state Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) probed first, followed by the CBI from 2007, which confirmed the ATS probe, and eventually in 2011 the NIA was brought in.

The HC said NIA "quite surprisingly" in 2013 filed a supplementary chargesheet against the four and also showed Sunil Joshi as dead accused, two others absconding and one wanted. "The NIA projected an altogether new story... The things as (they) stand today give two contradictory versions of the incident and both stories as floated by the ATS and NIA cannot be reconciled by any stretch of imagination," Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhar and Justice S C Chandak held in a 25-page ruling. "Diagonally opposite stories in the charge-sheet filed by the ATS and the NIA lead nowhere," it held.

The ATS had originally arrested nine accused, who were alleged SIMI members. The NIA arrested the four accused in 2012-13. On Wednesday, the four successfully appealed to have the charges, framed against them last Sept by the NIA court, dropped for want of evidence to proceed. In 2016, a special trial court had discharged all the nine original accused, accepting the NIA stand that ATS implicated them on mere suspicion.

The HC held the NIA case against the four is on hearsay evidence, lacks direct witnesses, rests on Aseemanand's confession in another case where it was held inadmissible, seven retracted confessions from the first set of ATS accused, since discharged, and a test identification parade conducted six years later that packs no punch for the prosecution case. The trial court last year framed charges under 19 heads, including for murder and terror offences, against Manohar Narwaria, Rajendra Chaudhary, Dhan Singh and Lokesh Sharma. All four were out on bail since 2019.

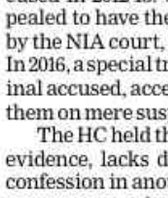
INDIA DIGEST

3 striking T'gana RTC drivers attempt suicide, 2 critical; govt to hold talks today

Three Telangana State Road Transport Corporation drivers attempted suicide in different districts as the employees' strike entered second day on Thursday. The first case was reported from Narsampet (Warangal district), where a 55-year-old driver attempted self-immolation. K Shankar Goud suffered 80% burns in the incident and was shifted to a private hospital in Hyderabad for treatment. While the RTC union members claimed that Goud had succumbed while undergoing treatment, their claim could not be officially confirmed. "The individual had sustained nearly 80% burn injuries and is currently undergoing treatment," said J Venkati, district medical and health officer (DMHO). Two others — G Linga Reddy from Bhadrachalam (Bhadradri Kothagudem district) and Venkanna from Miryalguda (Nalgonda) — also attempted suicide while protesting. According to RTC sources, Reddy consumed paraquat and is critical while Venkanna is stable. The latter's attempt to set himself on fire was thwarted by his co-workers and police personnel at the protest site.

How many is too many? MP seeks advice on tigers

Madhya Pradesh, long celebrated as India's tiger stronghold with a population believed to exceed 1,000, is entering a more complex phase of conservation. The focus is shifting from increasing numbers to assessing how many tigers the landscape can sustain without tipping ecological balance. With several reserves nearing limits, the MP forest department has turned to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, to develop a scientific method for assessing "carrying capacity." A formal request has been sent. Since Jan 2025, MP has lost around 79 tigers, mostly to territorial fights. "We have asked WII to help us arrive at a methodology... There is apprehension it will increase conflict," MP forest department head Subharanjan Sen said.



Don't marry if you can't maintain wife, kids: HC

The Allahabad high court observed that men who feel they cannot maintain a wife and children if the marriage goes sour should not get married in the first place. In an order dated April 7, a bench of Justices Atul Sreedharan and Vivek Saran said a man cannot cite poor finances to avoid maintaining his wife. "Once a man marries a woman, he is bound under the law to maintain her," the HC noted, rejecting a husband's appeal that challenged a Prayagraj family court order granting maintenance to the wife during pendency of matrimonial dispute case.

Maha govt fined for illegal handcuffing, detention

The Nagpur bench of Bombay HC Tuesday ordered the Maharashtra govt to pay Rs 50,000 each to two petitioners who were illegally handcuffed and detained by police in Amravati, holding the act violated their fundamental rights under Article 21.

TN, Bengal report poll-day violence

▶ Continued from page 1

In Bengal, voting in the first leg came after special intensive revision (SIR) struck off over 27 lakh names during adjudication. SIR has cut Bengal's electorate from 7.6 crore to 6.8 cr.

Murshidabad, which saw highest deletions, also led turnout. Raghunathganj and Bhaganbola recorded 96.9% each, while Shamsherganj touched 96%. South Dinajpur topped districts at 95.2%, followed by Cooch Behar at 95.1% and Birbhum at 94.1%. Even Darjeeling — lowest — posted 88.4%.

Polling saw sporadic violence. Forty-one people were arrested. In South Dinajpur, BJP candidate Subhendu Sarkar alleged he was assaulted after confronting alleged denial of entry to party agents. Police later restored order.

In Murshidabad's Naoda, clashes and a crude bomb attack wounded passer-by Jahanara Bibi.

In Birbhum's Khayrasole, allegations of EVM tampering halted polling briefly at a booth after voters claimed votes cast for Trinamool were registered for BJP. Security forces dispersed a stone-throwing crowd. Several personnel were injured. Three arrests were made, police said.

Tamil Nadu's polling day was largely steady but saw friction. Karur district led with 92.6%, with Karur constituency touching 93%. Western districts — Dharmapuri, Erode, Namakkal and Salem — crossed 90%. Kanyakumari recorded lowest at 75.6%, with Killiyoor at 71.3%. Turnout rose steadily through the day, crossing 70% by 3pm and closing at 85% by night.

Clashes and heated exchanges were reported in Chennai, Salem and Coimbatore among DMK, AIADMK and TVK supporters. EVM glitches caused delays at some booths. Police arrested a TVK functionary for allegedly filming his vote inside a polling station and uploading it.

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8880 461 461	8880 013 310	8880 465 465	8880 461 461	8880 003 003	8880 461 461
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YELAHANKA	BANNERGHATTA RD.	SARJAPURA	HOSA ROAD METRO	WHITEFIELD
5 MINS. RAJANUKUNTE	NEAR KOPPA GATE	SARJAPUR - ATTIBELE ROAD	NEAR ELECTRONIC CITY	5 MINS. KADUGODI METRO
₹ 54.85 - 97.21 Lakhs*	₹ 59.86 - 85.23 Lakhs*	₹ 60.01 - 83.25 Lakhs*	₹ 80.01 L - 1.44 Cr*	₹ 72.00 - 88.00 Lakhs*
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G+14	G+14	G+4	G+4	G+4

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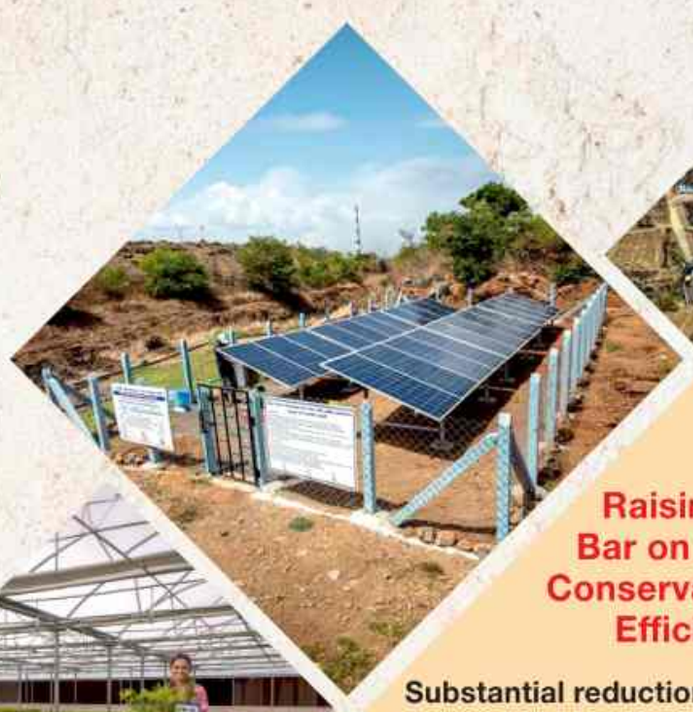

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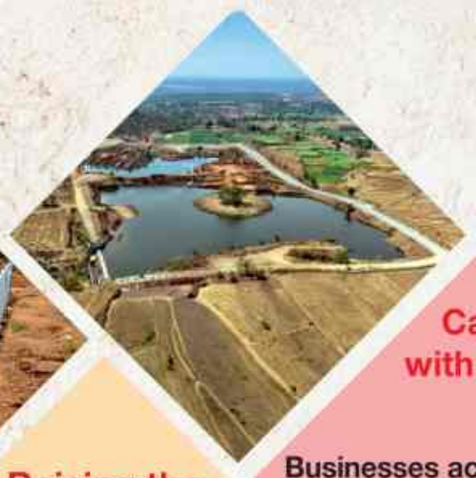

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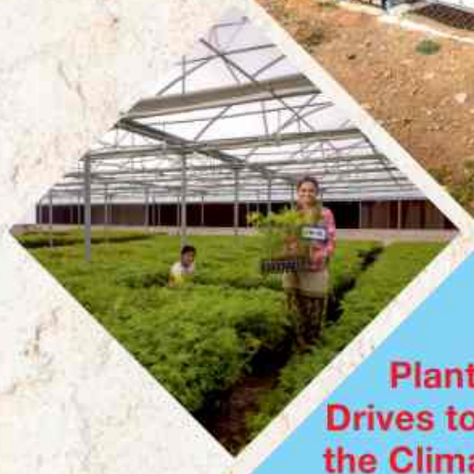

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Dakota, Dua Lipa: The rise of the celeb bookish influencer

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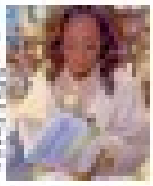
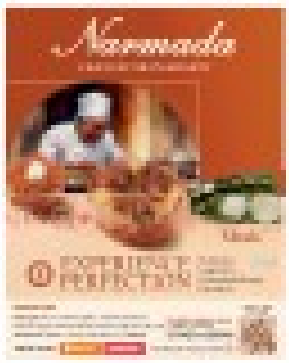
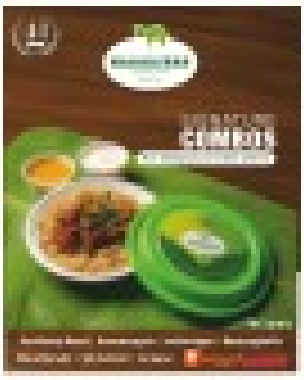






Man wrestles leopard to get 4-yr-old out of its clutches

Tushar.Tere@timesofindia.com

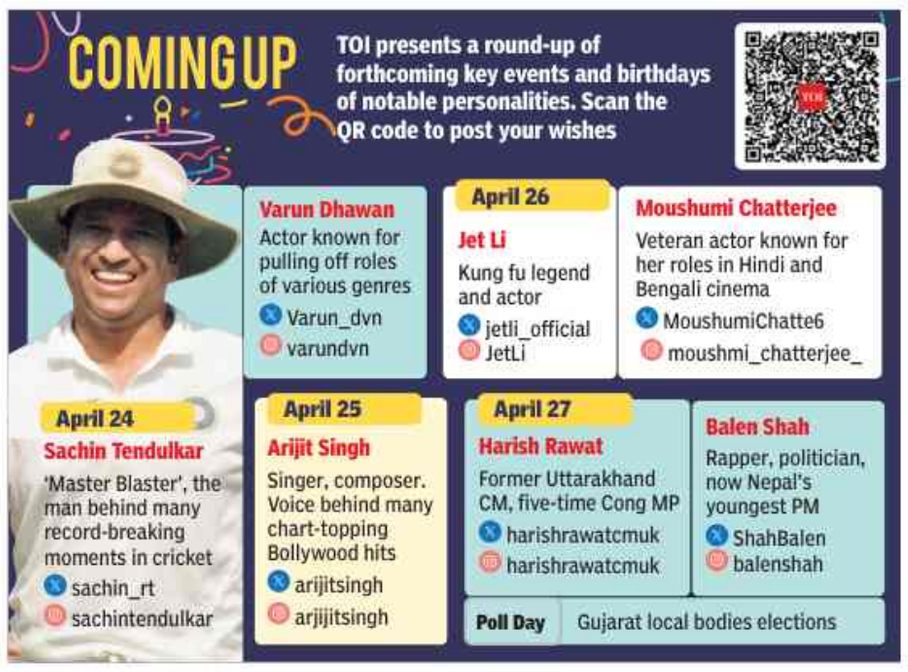
Vadodara: A tribal man from Rasli village in Gujarat fought off a leopard with his bare hands, forcing open its jaws to save his four-year-old daughter Wednesday.

Suresh Rathwa's daughter was playing in the backyard of their house when the leopard pounced on her. Alerted by his wife's screams, Rathwa rushed out to see his child being dragged away.

Rathwa lunged at the leopard, caught hold of his daughter, and dealt multiple blows to the animal with one hand. "The leopard refused to back off and repeatedly tried clawing Rathwa," Pavi Jetpur RFO Jaydeep Solanki said.

The leopard ultimately loosened its grip, released the child and fled into the fields. The girl suffered grievous injuries to her face and neck, but was responding well to treatment, said officials.

Locals claimed the leopard was seen again a few hours after the attack. Foresters installed three cages along with trap cameras around the village to capture it.



Cops seek to quiz man who flew to Thailand after Bby Ecstasy deaths

Mumbai: An individual whom Mumbai police want to question in connection with the supply of Ecstasy pills at a music concert in Mumbai's Goregaon, which left two MBA students dead, reportedly flew to Thailand after the incident, **reports Nitasha Natu**.

Another student was critical after taking the drug, but is back home. Police Wednesday seized 933 Ecstasy pills worth ₹15.4L from Raigad and arrested prime accused Ayush Sahitya. They are trying to find where Sahitya got the drugs from.

Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board, Pune (MSAMB)

e-Tender Notice (Second Call)

MSAMB invites e-Tender for Renovation of existing facilities in Irradiation Facility Centre and Vegetable Processing Facility, Vashi, Navi Mumbai. Estimated cost of said work is Rs. 1317.11 Lakhs + GST. For details please visit www.msamb.com and https://mahatenders.gov.in.

Managing Director

कार्यालय नगर निगम, जयपुर
(पण्डित दीनदयाल उपाध्याय भवन, सात रास्ते, सेक्टर नं. 2, जयपुर-15)

क्रमांक :- ज.न.नि./2026/42 दिनांक :- 21/04/2026

ई-निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 3-4/2026-27

नगर निगम जयपुर के विभिन्न कार्यों हेतु पंजीकृत फर्म्स से ई–निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र, विस्तृत सूचना एवं शर्तें आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **www.jaipurmc.org, www.sppp.raj.nic.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर स्टेट पब्लिक प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट के UBN No. JMC2627SLOB00050 To JMC2627SLOB00051 पर देखी जा सकती है।

उपायुक्त (मैसर्ज)
नगर निगम जयपुर

राज.संवाद/सी/26/1354

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 21/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 | Dated: 24.04.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 9 no. New 66 KV Bay related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24.04.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-526/26, DIPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10812

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

Office of the Deputy General Manager-1, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No: DGM-1/BSWML/PR/150/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)

This is to inform the general public and all concerned that below mentioned tender notifications issued by **Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML** on **10.03.2026** has been cancelled due to technical reasons.

1. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/26/2025-26
2. Tender Notification No: DGM-1/BSWML/TEND/27/2025-26

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-1, BSWML

DIPR/CP/AAA/339/2026-27

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGM/RE/2026-27/IFT No.09/302 Date: 22-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) - (Through KPP Portal Only)

The e-Tender are invited in duplicate from eligible Tenderers, registered Contractor, by the Registrar, Visvesvaraya Technological University, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi - 18, under standard tender document procedure K/W format for the Work of **Replacement of Roof Sheet to Auditorium Roof and Other Maintenace Works at VTU, "Jnana Sangama", Belagavi. Amounting to Rs. 97,45,747/- (Excluding GST).** Other details log on to Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 22-04-2026.**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/145/Adverto/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560023.
Tel: 080-29557021, email: pdksaps@gmail.com

No.KSAPS/TI/01/2019-20 (Part File) Dated: 23/04/2026

Inviting Expression of Interest called from NGOs/CBOs for providing services to implement HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention (TIs) with highly vulnerable population groups. Details available at **https://ksaps.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date for submission of EOI on or before **14/05/2026 at 5.30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/317/NR/2026-27

GREATER VISAKHAPATNAM MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

'e' Procurement Tender Notice No:- 04/2026-27/ SE(WS&S-M)/EE-I(WS&S-M)/DB/Dt:17.04.2026

1) Number of Works	: 01 Nos
2) Value of Works	: Rs.164.58 Lakhs
Downloading Starting Date	: 18.04.2026
Downloading ending Date	: 02.05.2026 4.00 P.M.
Last date of bid Submission	: 02.05.2026 4.30 P.M.
Date of PQ Opening	: 04.05.2026 5.00 P.M.

Note: For any other details required in respect of above tender notice, please contact EE-I(WS) before applying for tender schedules and visit vsp @ www.apeprocurement.gov.in

SE(WS & S-M

TRANSMISSION CORPORATION OF ANDHRA PRADESH LIMITED
(A Government of Andhra Pradesh Undertaking & an ISO 27001-2022 Certified Company)
VIDYUTH SOUDHA, VIJAYAWADA-520004.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The APTRANSCO invites bids online for Spec.No.PMM11-e-21/2026: Supply of 400kV Bus Post Insulators. **Date & Time of availability of above tender: 23.04.2026 at 5:00PM.** Website: **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** Contact No.CE/Transmission: **0866- 2429230.**

RO. No : GMCC/APTRANSCO/19/26-27 Sd/- Chief Engineer, Transmission

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भारतीय गुणवत्ता परिषद् QUALITY COUNCIL OF INDIA

The Quality Council of India (QCI) is a premier autonomous body set up by Government of India. QCI is responsible for creating a Quality Mindset and envisions to ensure quality across products and services that touch every citizen. As an independent and autonomous body, QCI creates a mechanism for independent third-party assessments of products, services, and processes, coordinating its activities through its constituent boards and divisions. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, serves as the nodal point for QCI.

QCI hereby invites proposals for **"Empanelment of Consultant Organisations and Assessment agencies under MSME Sustainable (ZED) Certification Scheme" for FY 2026-27**

The Expression of interest (EoI) documents along with detailed set of requirements may be found on QCI's website: **www.qcin.org** under the tenders' section **(https://qcin.org/work-with-us/#tenders).**

Interested parties may submit the technical documents in a PDF format to **procurement.zed@qcin.org** as per the submission guidelines in EoI documents.

QCI'S BOARDS AND DIVISIONS
PADD PPID NDEE

Quality Council of India, World Trade Center, J-200, Block J, Nanguj Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi- 110029

INNOVATE KARNATAKA **K-tech**

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Tender No.: ITBTST/2025-26/SE0045

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society (KITS), Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T intends to Select a Consultancy Service Provider for Attraction of Data Centres, Strengthening Skilling Initiatives, and Development of an Ecosystem for Emerging Technologies in Karnataka.

Any notices/information related to this RFP in the future shall be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only.

The deadline for submission is **on or before 25.05.2026 by 5.00 P.M.** Refer to the RFP document for eligibility criteria and other conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT & BT, Government of Karnataka
BKG Sapphire, # 59, 3rd Floor, Railway Parallel Road, Kumara Park West, Seshadripuram, Bengaluru-560020. Tel: 080-22231008
E-mail: gmit.kits@gmail.com

DIPR/CP/326/AKAR/2026-27

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता,
जन स्वास्थ्य अभियांत्रिकी विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम, जोधपुर
Tel : 0291-2650750, Email: rj_acejo@nic.in

क्रमांक अमुअ/क्षेत्र-प्रथम/जो./2026-27/522-37 दिनांक : 21/04/2026

बिड संशोधन सूचना संख्या 1, NIB संख्या 20/2025-26

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी की गई निविदा संख्या 20/2025-26 में निविदा प्रपत्र में संशोधन करते हुए बिड संशोधन जारी किया जा कर जारी किया जा कर https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in एवं https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in पर अपलोड किया गया।

NIT No. 20/2025-26(UBIN- PHE2526WLOB15970, E-proc ID- 2026_PHCJO_549181_1)

Sd/-
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
जन स्वा. अभि. विभाग, क्षेत्र-प्रथम-जोधपुर

DIPR/C/7245/2026

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 20/GCD/LDH/TS/PSPCL/2026 | Dated: 24.04.2026

ASE/ Grid Construction, opp. PAU Gate No.1, PSPCL, Ludhiana invites Short Term e-Tender for Outsourcing of 3 no. Additional PTF's (2 no. With 20 MVA PTF and 1 no. With 12.5 MVA PTF) related works on partial turnkey mode under Grid Construction Division, Ludhiana under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana.

For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 24.04.2026 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any, will be published online at http://eproc.punjab.gov.in.

C-525/26, DIPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10811

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller's Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

Applications are invited for free admissions to 1st year Pre-University course in Minority Morarji Desai Residential Pre–University Colleges / Moulana Azad Model Pre-University running under the Directorate of Minorities for the year 2026-27.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಅ.ಸಂ.ನಿ/ಶಿ.ವಿ/ಪ.ಪೂ/ಸಿಆರ್–01/2026–27 Date: 23.04.2026

NOTIFICATION

Applications are invited for free admission into first year PUC for the academic year 2026-27 to Minority Residential Pre–University Colleges/ Moulana Azad Model Pre- University Colleges under the Directorate of Minorities.

Timeline

Date for submission of online applications starts from: 24.04.2026.
Last date for submission of online applications: 16.05.2026.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested Parents/Students can apply directly online through Directorate of Minorities Website
Website for application: - **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION

1. 75% are reserved for students belonging to Minority communities viz., Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis.
2. 25% seats are reserved for students belonging to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Class.
3. Students should have passes SSLC/ Equivalent exam.
4. Student should be a domicile of Karnataka State.
5. Total family income should not be more than 2.50 Lakhs.
6. 4% seats have been reserved for specially abled students.

Instructions:- Parents/ Students can contact respective Minority District Office, Taluk Minority Information Center, Near By Minority College Principal or Minority Welfare Department Helpline Number 8277799990 for further information.

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/338/MAA/26-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಬೆಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಧಾರವಾಡ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಧಾರವಾಡ

ನಂ:ಕಾ.ನಿ.ಇಂ/ ಗ್ರಾಕುನೀ & ನೈವಿ/ಧಾ/ ಕಾಇಂ–1/ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್/ 2026–27/ 87
ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22–04–2026

WORK ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ವಿಷಯ: ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಕುರಿತು.

ಮೇಲ್ಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಉಲ್ಲೇಖಿತ ಪತ್ರದಡಿ ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ.

ಧಾರವಾಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ: ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : **Works Indent No: RWSSD/2026-27/WS/WORK_INDENT10034**

ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ: **165.51** ಲಕ್ಷ, ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ: **165.51** ಲಕ್ಷ

ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಕ್ರಮದ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿದೆ. (Calender of Events)

1. ಬಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರ್ಮಗಾಗಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರೋಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್ ಬಿ ಗಳನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **23.04.2026** ರಿಂದ **04.05.2026** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
2. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **05.05.2026** ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ **04.30** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
3. ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಗೊಂಡ ನಂತರ.

ಸದರಿ ಮೇಲೆ ತಿಳಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂತಿಮ ಹೆಸರು, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಮುಂತಾದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೆ, ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಮಾಡಿದವರು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಧಾರವಾಡ.

ಪಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ./ಧಾರವಾಡ/85/2026–27/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿ

Government of Karnataka
Public Works Department, Special Division, Hunsur
Short Term tender Notification
(Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)

IFT No:02/2026-27 Date: 18.04.2026

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka the under signed has invited itemised tender for 2-works related to Hunsur Division as per terms and conditions of "standard tender documents" from the eligible registered contactors under PWD through kppp Portal. Maximum amount put to tender Rs.718.74 lakhs and Minimum amount put to tender Rs.21.13 lakhs, Maximum EMD amount of Rs.10,78,120/- and Minimum EMD amount of Rs.25,000/-. Tender documents is downloaded from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website from Dt: 18-04-2026 and Last date for submission of filled tender documents is Dt:27-08-2026 upto 16.00 Hours. Period for completion of works (including monsoon): Maximum 7-Months and Minimum 2-months. For more details visit the undersigned during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD, Special Division, Hunsur.

DIPR/DDMYS/85/KSMCA/73/2026-27

REVENUE COMMISSIONERATE, REVENUE DEPARTMENT
BHOOMI MONITORING CELL
1st Floor SSLR Building, K.R. Circle, Bengaluru-560001.
E-mail: bhoomi.bmc01@gmail.com Phone: 080-22113255

No: BMC/2026-27/SE0007 Date: 23/04/2026

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tender is invited for procurement of **01 Project Manager Services** to Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department. The last date for uploading filled tender forms in K.PP Portal is **25/05/2026 by 5.30 P.M.** Details regarding terms and conditions are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**.

Sd/- Assistant Commissioner,
Bhoomi Monitoring Cell, Revenue Department.

DIPR/CP/SPAN/328/2026-27

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited

(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001)
Corporate Identity Number:U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(O/o Controller of Stores & Disposal (South), PSPCL, Patiala)
(Email-cosandds@gmail.com, Mobile no. - 96461-19412, 96461-48165)

Scrap e-Auction Notice

Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) will conduct a forward e-auction on 28.04.2026 for the disposal of approximately 40762 Damaged/Unserviceable Distribution Transformers (Approximate Total Start price Rs. 57.10 crores), lying at various Transformer Receiving Yards and General Scrap. Battery Scrap. E-waste, Plastic Waste lying in various central Stores. TRYs and Outlet stores across Punjab, offered in separate multiple lots for each location. The e-auction will be conducted on the website portal https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/index_new.jsp. The Detailed auction catalogue with Terms & Conditions of e-auction, corrigendum and material list etc. will be available on the website https://www.mstcindia.co.in/content/Forthcoming_e_Auctions_For_All_regions.aspx and on https://www.pspcl.in/e-auction-notice.aspx. For queries related to registration, please contact at Phone No. 7229068247 or 7230022882.

C-516/26, DIPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10798

MYSORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, MYSORE
(Government of Karnataka- Autonomous Institute)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001, Telephone No:- +91-0821-2520512 (Off),2520803 (Fax),
Email- mmcrimysore@yahoo.com, website: www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in

No.MMC&RI/Tender/04/2025-26 Date: 22.04.2026

SHORT TERM RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub: Invitation of Short Term Re-Tender to run the Canteen at the Campus of MMC & RI and STP, ETP and WTP Plant Maintenance and Term NICU & Preterm NICU for Inborn Babies Internal Works and Internal Electrification & Others in Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore

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The Short term Re-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 torun the Canteen at the Campus of MMC & RI and STP, ETP and WTP Plant Maintenance and Term NICU & Preterm NICU for Inborn Babies Internal Works and Internal Electrification & Others in Cheluvamba Hospital, Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Mysore. The Tender documents may bid download from E-procurement **websit: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D will be rejected

Sl No	Tender / Short term Re-Tender	Commence date of tender submission	Last date of tender submission	Tender Amount (Rs.Lakh)
1	Sup/Viva/287/2024-25 Canteen in MMC&RI Compus	22.04.2026	06.05.2026	31.90
2	Dev/56/2025-26 STP,ETP & WTP Maintenance	22.04.2026	29.04.2026	15.00
3	Dev/82/2025-26 Term NICU & Preterm NICU for Inbom babies At Cheluvamba Hospital	22.04.2026	29.04.2026	40.00

If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Mysore Medical College & Research Institute, Mysore

DIPR/MYSORE/Shirdi Sai/96/2026-27

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Gandhianagar Division, 2nd Floor BMP Complex, Dhanavantri road, Bangalore-09

No.EE/GNR/TEND/KPPP/001/2026-27 Date: 23.04.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only) TWO COVER SYSTEM

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of **Bengaluru Central City Corporation** or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website **(http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non refundable) in the form of e-Payment through e-Procurement Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid upto the year of 2024 and shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal.

Sl No.	Ward No	Name of Work | Amount Put to Tender (Rs. In lakhs) | EMD In Rupees | Stipulated Period of Completion
1.	62	Annual Maintenance of Storm Water Drains in Gandhinagar Constituency. Amount Put to Tender **Rs.375.26 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs. 5,63,000/-,** Stipulated Period of Completion: **3 Years.**
2.	58	Annual Maintenance of Arterial and Sub Arterial Roads including footpath in Gandhinagar Division. Amount Put to Tender **Rs.84.67 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs. 1,70,000/-,** Stipulated Period of Completion: **1 Year.**

Calendar of events: Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: **02.05.2026 upto 16:00 Hours,** Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid: **04.05.2026 up to 12:30 Hours,** Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid: **(Will be intimated Through Kppp)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Gandhinagar Division, BCCC

North Eastern Railway

1st Corrigendum For Open Tender Notice No. N235-62Tele Tender03-2026

Corrigendum to Open Tender Notice The following modification/Change are made in open tender notice No. N235-62Tele Tender03-2026 dated 16.03.2026 of the work **"Provision of IP-MPLS based network for Unified communication Backbone & VOIP based control communication system with associated LAN infrastructure at various stations of LJN, BSB, IZN Divisions & HQ Control Room over North Eastern Railway and TCP-IP based fire fighting System at Divisional Control Test Room & HQ Control Room. Provision of FXS media Gateways with associated LAN & OFC infrastructure for existing SIP Based IP Exchange in HQ Gorakhpur."** Sl.No. 1. **Modification in Scope of work Para-10 Page No.112 of Tender Document (Document uploaded) 2. Closing Date of Tender 06.05.2026 changed to 13.05.2026 time 12:30 hrs.** Regarding respective Changes, Additional relevant information may be checked on the railway website www.ireps.gov.in

Dy Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele/HQ Gorakhpur

CPRO/Sig-15

DO NOT SMOKE BIDI/CIGARETTE IN TRAINS

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, 2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender EMD
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(CS&DCW)/TA(UFW)/326/2026-27		Date: 23.04.2026
1.	Work of Modernization & Remodeling of water supply system and reduction in UFW in Jayamahal and Ramaswamypalya missing bit coming under AEENE-2 Sub Division limit of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs. 382.15 Lakhs / Rs. 4.51 Lakhs
2.	Work of Modernization & Remodeling of water supply system and reduction in UFW in Gavipuram Extension DMA and surrounding areas coming under AEESW-3 Sub Division limit of BWSSB, Bangalore.	Rs. 384.44 Lakhs / Rs. 4.54 Lakhs

Sd/-Engineer-in- Chief.

For above works, Last date for submission of completed tender documents: **08.05.2026 upto 16:00Hrs.** The tenders will be opened on: **09.05.2026 after 16:30Hrs.**

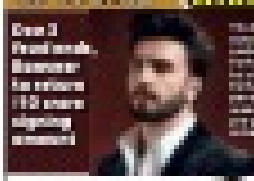
The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/334/2026-27

Winning isn't everything, but wanting to win is - Vince Lombardi

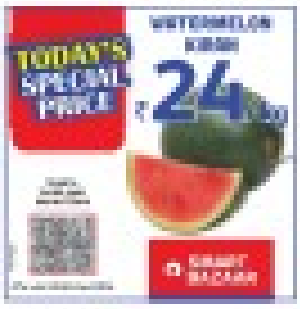
It is very tough to be away from the court, shares Saina Nehwal

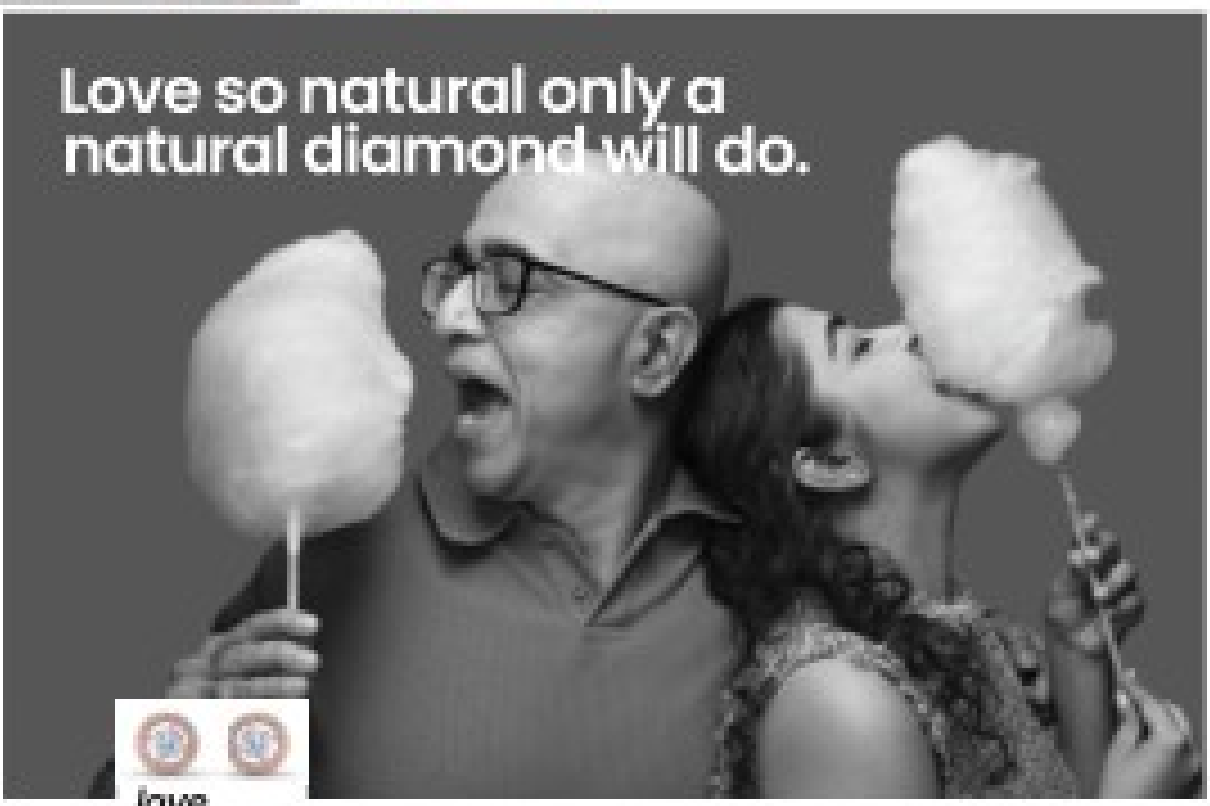
UP TO DATE | WHAT'S #TRENDING AND WHY



Over 3 Pratt ends, Bumrah to return 113 runs signing remains

Ranbir makes dismissive claims of dropping Deepika after pregnancy news, calls her role 'crucial'





Western Ghats loses 35% of dragonfly, damselfly species

Study: Signals Pollution Stress On Freshwater

SwatiShindeGole
@timesofindia.com

WORRYING DECLINE

Pune: Clean water's most reliable tell-tales are thinning out. A two-year survey across the Western Ghats has found nearly 35% of dragonfly and damselfly species missing — a stark signal of mounting stress on freshwater systems from pollution, infrastructure build-out & climate shifts.

Researchers from MIT World Peace University and Society for Odonate Studies documented 143 species between Feb 2021 and March 2023 across 144 sites in five states. Historical records list about 222 species for the Ghats. The gap is wide — and worrying.

Published in Biology Bulletin Reviews, the study spans rivers, streams, waterfalls, ponds, lakes and reservoirs along the 1,600km range, one of Earth's richest biodiversity hotspots. Of species recorded, 40 are endemic, underscoring what's at stake.

Dragonflies and damselflies function as sentinels. Their edge comes from a split life: 1–2 years as aquatic nymphs, then a brief aerial adulthood. That dual existence ties them tightly to water quality and surrounding air conditions, making declines an early-warning system for pollution, habitat degradation and climate stress.

They "rely on clean water to breed," said researcher Pankaj Koparde. "Their decline often signals pollution, habitat degradation or climate changes."

Pressure points are spread across the Ghats: hydropower and road projects, land-use change, contaminated runoff. Add tourism surges, forest fires and rising temperatures. Freshwater habitats are taking the hit. Numbers vary by state.

Maharashtra logged 100 species, followed by Kerala (83), Karnataka (64), Goa (35) and Gujarat (18). Kerala, despite fewer survey sites, showed the highest endemism — a marker of richer southern diversity.

Researchers call for tighter monitoring of waterbodies, deeper surveys and stronger safeguards for fragile habitats. Message is blunt: protect habitats now, or lose the very markers that tell us water — and ecosystems that sustain wildlife and people — are in trouble.

SC: Conscience & faith private to an individual

▸ Continued from page 1

The bench hearing the Sabarimala case comprised CJI Surya Kant and Justices B V Nagarathna, M M Sundresh, Ahsanuddin Amanulla, Aravind Kumar, A G Masih, P B Varale, R Mahadevan and J Bagchi.

CJI Kant and Justices Nagarathna, Sundresh, Kumar and Mahadevan, through their observations, appeared to agree that it would be difficult for the court to put its judicial lens to examine the validity of the mode and manner a devotee chooses to worship God.

Raj asked that as no religious text prescribed such worship, what would be the baseline for the judicial scrutiny? The CJI and Justice Nagarathna said conscience and faith were private to an individual.

Justice Sundresh said, "Article 25 rights protect a believer from a non-believer. It gives importance to the conscience of a person to practise, profess and propagate religion. The manner of worship is part of conscience and a space private to the devotee and God. This cannot be given a restrictive meaning." Justice Mahadevan added, "Faith is faith. Its validity can't be tested."

All major religious communities — Hindus, Muslims, Jains, Dawoodi Bohras and Parsis, argued in unison that long-standing customs, as in the Sabarimala temple, were based on faith and belief of devotees about the attributes of the deity and were non-justiciable.

'No progress': SC stays trial against cop in 35-yr-old case

New Delhi: Taking note of the fact that trial had not moved forward and prosecution had failed to produce any of its witnesses for recording of oral evidence in the past 35 years, Supreme Court has stayed trial proceedings against a police officer and indicated that it was in favour of quashing the case on the ground of delay itself.

Holding that state govt had to be heard before any order was passed, SC issued notice to Uttar Pradesh govt seeking its response.

The officer is facing trial for charges under Sections 147 (rioting), 323 (causing hurt) and 504 (insult) of Indian Penal Code and Section 120 of Railway Act.

"We are told that in all, five accused were named in the chargesheet, including the petitioner. Out of five, two co-accused died and the other two have been acquitted on the ground that prosecution failed to produce witnesses for recording of oral evidence." TNN

Bengal taking contradictory stand on writ petition: ED

New Delhi: Countering West Bengal govt and its CM Mamata Banerjee's plea that a writ petition filed by ED and its officers are not maintainable as only individuals can claim violation of fundamental rights, the agency told SC Thursday that many states had filed such petitions and these were entertained by the court, **reports Amit Anand Choudhary**.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta told the SC that govts of Tamil Nadu, Odisha and also Bengal had filed writ petitions, but now the state is taking a contradictory stand.

ED has alleged that Mamata used state machinery to obstruct its Jan 8 probe at political consultancy firm I-Pac's office in Kolkata in connection with the coal smuggling case.

Justifying the petition filed by ED officers, Mehta said their identity as individuals and officers are inseparable and it would be travesty of justice if they are prevented from approaching the court if they are falsely implicated in a case like the present one.

At that stage, SC observed there is an inherent danger if such a petition is filed and entertained as it would lead to a floodgate of litigation and states would keep filing such a petition.

SC puts Amit Jogi's life term in murder case on hold

New Delhi: SC Thursday stayed Chhattisgarh high court's order convicting former CM Ajit Jogi's son Amit Jogi for 2003 murder of NCP's Ramavatar Jaggi and sentencing him to life imprisonment.

The bench, hearing Amit's appeal against the verdict, also raised questions over manner in which HC dealt with the case after it was alleged that he was not given a proper hearing.

"What kind of judgment-...conviction and sentence before hearing?" it asked. TNN

SC judge: There's reason why women offer namaz at home

New Delhi: Justice Ahsanuddin Amanullah, part of 9-judge SC bench, Thursday said everyone must know that since the days of the Prophet, there was no ban on entry of women into mosques to offer namaz, **reports Dhananjay Mahapatra**. Although, there were customs and procedures in Islam regulating the manner of how can they offer prayer, he said.

Senior advocate M R Shamshad argued that the custom of providing separate space for Muslim women to offer namaz could not be questioned by a court and said though there was no ban on Muslim women offering namaz in a mosque, it was preferable that they did so in their homes.

The judge said, "A reason for Islam to prefer women offering namaz at home is that if every adult of a family goes to a mosque to offer namaz, who will take care of the children?" Shamshad said SC must overrule 1994 SC verdict which had ruled that mosque is not essential for namaz.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that Happiest **Health Systems Private Limited** ("**Company**") and **Smt. Malini, Smt. N. Shylaja, Sri. H. S. Chiranthan, Sri. S. Karthik, Smt. B. Chandrakala, Sri. H. B. Gautham, Sri. H. M. Venugopal, and Sri. Poonam Chand Gehlot** ("**Owners**") have a subsisting understanding, in respect of the entire building comprising 2 basement floors and 5 upper floors constructed on the land bearing Khatha No 1331/38/2 comprised in Survey No 38/2, approximately measuring 1 acre (43205 square feet) situated at Bannerghatta Road, Arekere, Bangalore South Taluk and District which is morefully described in the **SCHEDULE** hereunder and hereinafter referred to as the "**Property**", pursuant to documentation executed between the parties in this regard and amounts paid by the Company.

Accordingly, any person(s)/ entity(ies) proposing to enter into or having entered into any transaction, agreement, arrangement or dealing of any nature whatsoever in respect of the Property, including but not limited to any lease, sub-lease, licence or any other arrangement, are hereby put on notice that the Company has a subsisting arrangement in respect of the Property, and any such subsequent transaction or proposed transaction and/or arrangement shall be undertaken at the sole risk, cost and consequences of the person(s)/ entity(ies) concerned, and that the Company shall not be bound by any such interest and/ or arrangement thereby.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of immovable **property bearing Khatha No 1331/38/2** comprised in Survey No 38/2, measuring **43,205 square feet** situated at **Arekere Village, Begur-3 Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore,** along with building constructed thereon comprising of 2 basement floors and 5 upper floors and bounded on:

East by : Esteem Enclave Apartments;
West by : Bannerghatta Road;
North by : Private Property; and
South by : Esteem Enclave Apartments.

Dated this 24th day of April 2026
For and on behalf of
HAPPIEST HEALTH SYSTEMS PRIVATE LIMITED
Parvathy P. B.
Authorized Signatory
Place: BENGALURU

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of (i) Murthi Mittal alias Murthy Mittal, w/o late Gajanand Mittal, (ii) Rajesh Mittal, (iii) Mukesh Mittal, (iv) Deepak Mittal and (v) Pankaj Mittal [(ii) to (v) being the s/o late Gajanand Mittal], all residing at No.10, 10th main, 1st cross, Sadashivanagar, Bangalore-560 080, (collectively referred to as the "Owners"), in respect of immovable properties situated at Poojanahalli and Kannamangala Villages, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Schedule Property"). Our client ("Client") is desirous of entering into a joint development agreement to jointly develop the Schedule Property with the Owners, who have represented to our Client that they are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property with rights of alienation over the same.

ALL persons including an individual, a Hindu Undivided Family, a company, banks, financial institution(s), non- banking financial institution(s), a firm, an association of persons or a body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of Schedule Property or any part or portion thereof by way of sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, mortgage, pledge, charge, gift, trust, inheritance, bequest, succession, family arrangement, grant, possession, lease, sub-lease tenancy, sub-tenancy, maintenance easement, license, bequeath, share, assignment, lien, attachment, development rights, covenant, settlement right of way, lis pendens, reservation, agreement, FSI consumption, development rights, order/decree/judgement of court or any liability or commitment or otherwise or demand of any nature whatsoever are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at 6/12, Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road Bengaluru 560 025 within a period of **14 (Fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice in the newspaper, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

: SCHEDULE PROPERTY :

Sl No.	Sy No.	Extent Acres	Extent Guntas	Boundaries East by	Boundaries West by	Boundaries North by	Boundaries South by
Poojanahalli Village							
1	13/4	-	04	Land bearing Survey No. 15	Road	Land bearing Survey No. 13/3; and	Land bearing Survey No. 15.
2	14	5	1	Kannamangala Village Boundary	Land bearing Survey No. 15	Land bearing Survey No. 13.	Land bearing Survey No. 16.
3	15/2	3	23	Land bearing Survey No. 14	Land bearing Survey No.15/1	Land bearing Survey No. 13	Land bearing Survey No.16
Kannamangala Village							
4	153/2	1	15	Land in Survey Nos. 91 & 106	Poojanahalli Village boundary	Land in Survey No. 131	Land Survey No. 153/1

Dated : 24.04.2026

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner & Advocate
Mr. B.C. Keerthi Kishore, Practice Head & Advocate
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91 80 2559 5911. e-mail : prashantha.kumar@foxmandal.in

SSC
SHORT NOTICE

Staff Selection Commission (Karnataka-Kerala Region), Bangalore, invites application from eligible law graduates for engagement of 01 (One) Young Professional (Legal Consultant) purely on short term contract basis for 1 year to deal with the legal matters. Eligible candidates may send their application along with relevant documents by **30.04.2026.** Detailed notification available at **(https://www.ssckkr.kar.nic.in)**

CBC 32203/11/0001/2627 **Deputy Director**

IDBI BANK IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai-400005 CIN: L65190MH2004GOI148838

TENDER NOTICE
Request for Proposal (RFP) for Appointment of Consultant for Transformation of the Premier Banking Segment

IDBI Bank Ltd invites sealed tenders from well-established and reputable Firms for appointment of an experienced consulting partner with proven credentials for the transformation of the Premier Banking Segment. Interested Firms may download the tender/RFP document from IDBI Bank's website **www.idbi.bank.in** (Notices & Tenders) and submit the sealed Technical and Financial Bid to GM (RBG-Liability), Corporate Centre, 13th Floor, C Wing, IDBI Tower, WTC Complex, Cuffe Parade, Mumbai – 400 005.

Last date for submission of tender is May 19, 2026.

Date: 24 April, 2026 **Sd/-**
Place: Mumbai **GM (RBG-Liability)**

4001/37/2627

idco | **ODISHA** NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C) IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Tender Call Notice No File No.: IDCO/HO-P&C/A-100869/04/2026/V-1 11424 Dated: 20.04.2026

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-Procurement

Name of the Work: SITC of 33 kV UG Cable (IC x 630 Sqmm XLPE) for Connectivity of 33/11 kV, 2 x 8 MVA Primary Substation (PSS) from 33 kV Source and SITC of 11 kV UG Cable (3C x 400 Sqmm XLPE) for Distribution of Load at Ramdaspur Industrial Estate under Electrical Section, Godisahi, Cuttack.
Estimated Cost put to tender: Rs.1,28,25,992.00
Period of completion: 4(Four) Calendar Months

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for Bidding From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Towers, Bhubaneswar.	**Bid Identification No:-** P&C/EST/E-02/2026-27	**17:00 hours of dt.28.04.2026**	**17:00 hours of dt.13.05.2026**

Further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal **www.Tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the **e-procurement** portal as well as in **IDCO website.**

Sd/-
Chief General Manager (P&C)
IDCO, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-4001/4075/1/26-27/0015

National Human Rights Commission, India

Short Films Competition-2026

Entries are invited from the Indian citizens for the NHRC's 'Short Films Competition-2026' advocating promotion and protection of human rights.

For details download the application form, terms and conditions from the NHRC website **www.nhrc.nic.in** and send the entry only online at **email address: nhrcshortfilm@gmail.com. The last date to receive entries is 30th June 2026.**

For clarifications, if any, please write to the Deputy Director (Media &Communication), NHRC, **at the email address as above.**

CBC 53101/11/0003/2627

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

No. 16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru-560052. Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
Email: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/DD(Tariff)/TBCB/2025-26/1904 Date: 23.04.2026

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission had published the following draft regulations in the Karnataka Gazette on 02.04.2026, inviting comments /views / suggestions / objections, if any, on the draft Regulations from the stake holders / interested persons and had also hosted the same on the Commission's Website **https://kerc.karnataka.gov.in.**

(1) Draft KERC (Procedure, Terms and Conditions for grant of Transmission License and other related matters in respect of intra-State Transmission Projects selected through Tariff-Based Competitive Bidding) Regulations, 2026

AND

(2) Draft KERC (Fee) (First Amendment) Regulations, 2026

The Commission will hold a Public Hearing in the matter at **3.00 PM on 30th April 2026 in the 1st floor, Court Hall of the Commission, #16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagara, Bengaluru-560052.** Interested persons/ stakeholders/ public may participate in the "Public Hearing" and make their oral/written submissions before the Commission.

Sd/- Secretary
DIPR/CP/YC/320/2026-27 For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

MSME TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, BENGALURU

A Government of India Society
Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises

Registration/Admissions open for 03 Years Diploma Course

S. No.	Course Offered (Branch)	Duration	Seats Available	Annual Tuition Fee
1.	Computer Science and Engineering	03 Years	60	Rs. 32,000.00
2.	Electronics and Communication Engineering	03 Years	60	Rs. 32,000.00
3.	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	03 Years	30	Rs. 32,000.00
4.	Automation and Robotics	03 Years	30	Rs. 32,000.00

Hostel Facilities are available for Boys and Girls

For Further details contact : Tel No : 080-23401156,29899598
Mob No: +91 9141154204 / 205 **AICTE APPROVED**
Email : training@msmetcblr.org | Website : www.msmetcblr.org
Free (No Tuition Fee) for SC / ST
Plot No.6, Aerospace Park, KIADB Industrial Estate, Bengaluru North, Karnataka - 562129

Scan for Registration

U.T. OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
56/2366 (Old No. 27/1038 B), Panampilly Nagar, Kochi - 682 036
Tel No. 0484 2323448 / 2323458
E-Mail: ldcladm2016@gmail.com Website: lakshadweep.gov.in

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. is inviting applications for 2 (two) posts of **Marine Superintendent on Deputation basis from Central / State Governments and PSUs** failing which on Contract basis, from eligible candidates with Class I Marine Engineer Officer (MEO) having worked as Chief Engineer in coastal / foreign going vessels for at least one year.

Application with self attested copies of all certificates should reach the above address on or before 15.05.2026. Preference will be given to eligible and qualified candidates from Lakshadweep.

Please visit our Website: **lakshadweep.gov.in** for details.

23.04.2026 **Sd/- General Manager**

HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA
Bengaluru-560001

No. HCRB 8/2025 (GROUP-D - RPC)
HCRB 9/2025 (GROUP - D - KKR) **Date: 22.04.2026**

BRIEF NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited by High Court of Karnataka for filling up of 101 [93 posts under Residual Parent Cadre including 01 backlog post and 08 posts under Kalyana Karnataka Region] various cadres of Group D posts [i.e., Peons, Watchman, Sweepers, Peons (House Keeping), Lift Attender, Assistant Binder, Tailor and Dhobi].

Pay scale for the cadres of Peon, Watchman, Sweeper, Peon (House Keeping), Assistant Binder and Dhobi is Rs.19,900/-Rs.63,200/- and for the cadres of Lift Attender and Tailor is Rs. 21,700/-Rs.69,100/-.

The last date for submission of online application is **21st May, 2026 till 11.59 p.m.**

Eligible candidates are required to apply only through 'Online' by visiting the official website of High Court of Karnataka at **judiciary.karnataka.gov.in.** No other means / mode of applications will be accepted. The Notification and other details are available in the above mentioned portal and in the official Gazette (E-Gazette) of Karnataka dated **22.04.2026.**

Sd/- (K.S. BHARATH KUMAR)
REGISTRAR GENERAL ,
HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA, BENGALURU.

DIPR/CP/318/NR/2026-27

THE SPECIAL OFFICER AND COMPETENT AUTHORITY, (UNDER KPIDFE - IMA & OTHER SCAM)

3rd Floor, Podium Block, V.V Tower, Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi, Bengaluru-560001

NOTICE/INVITATION FOR E-AUCTION FOR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY

Pursuant to attachment of movable properties by the Government under the provisions of the KPIDFE Act and pursuant to the absolute attachment order by the Hon'ble Special Court, the Special Officer & Competent Authority & Competent Authority is issuing notice for e-auction of the immovable properties through e-auction on 'as is where is and whatever there is basis

Short description of the Immovable Property (SPLOCA/AUC(2)/CR/01/2026-27)

Properties are free of all encumbrances and are in the name of Competent Authority appointed by Government and confirmed by the Special Court under KPIDFE Act, 2004.

14 FLATS of "Sanfield Raaga" Apartments situated at of residential converted land in Sy No 198/1 of extent measuring 0-25 guntas in Koppa village Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk , Bangalore
Location: https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZpNrf8BGZep8f8RP7
Latitude and Longitude: 12°48'26.8"N 77°37'36.8"E
For more details regarding Minimum bid Price, EMD and other details please visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & https://sploca.org

Date of Pre-bid meeting & time and Place	Date of Inspection & time	Last Date of Submission of Bids & EMD submission	Date & Time of E Auction
07th May 2026, 3 pm to 4 pm Place: O/o SPLOCA, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Tower, Bengaluru-01	**12th May 2026, 11:00am to 05:00pm**	**16th May 2026 Before 5pm**	**20th May 2026 11 am to 1 pm**

For Registration & Online Auction, you can login to: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (Helpdesk No: 080-46010000, 080-68948777) The interested bidders who require auction related information can contact Assistant Commissioner, Office of the Special Officer & Competent Authority, 3rd Floor, Podium Block, Visveswariah Towers, Dr.Ambedkar Veedi, Bengaluru-560001, e-mail ID: splocaeauction@gmail.com or Contact Mob. No 9945515174 Or visit sploca.org.

Sd/-
Date: 23-04-2026 **Special Officer & Competent Authority**
Place: Bengaluru DIPR/CP/322/Zen/2026-27 **(Under KPIDFE –IMA & Other Scam) Bengaluru.**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public are hereby notified that, we are investigating the marketable title of the owners to the Schedule Property for our clients who have agreed to purchase/development the same, through **M/s MILHIT PROJECTS INFRA PVT. LTD., represented by its Director Mr.VIKAS KUMAR CHHAJER.**

Apart from the owners shown in the table hereunder, if any person/entity has any manner of claim, right, title, interest or demand of any nature in or over the Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same shall be filed with the undersigned, with supporting documents, within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this Notice. Objections and or the claims received after expiry of the stipulated period, will not be binding on our clients and our clients will proceed with the transaction.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the lands (details of survey numbers and extent given in the table hereunder), situated at **DODDAKARENAHALLI Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.**

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent A	Extent G	Owner Name	Boundaries East by	Boundaries West by	Boundaries North by	Boundaries South by
1.	90/2	1	25	**M/s Milhit Projects Infra Pvt. Ltd.,**	Sy.No.91	Sy.No.89, 88 & 87	Sy.No.33	Road
2.	91/2	1	25	**Sri.B.Abhayraj Shetty** S/o Sri.B.Ramanath Shetty	Sy.No.92/2	Sy.No.90	Sy.No.33/p1 & others	Road-NH-48
3.	92/2	2	4	**Sri.Manjunath** S/o Sri.Narayanaswamy	Sy.No.34	Sy.No.91/2	Sy.No.111	Road-NH-48
4.	93	2	08	**M/s Milhit Projects Infra Pvt. Ltd.,**	Sy.No.33	Sy.No.29	Sy.No.94	Sy.No.87, 88 & 89
5.	95	3	38	**Sri.B.Abhayraj Shetty** S/o Sri.B.Ramanath Shetty & **Sri.Manjunath** S/o Sri.Narayanaswamy	Sy.No.94	Sy.No.33	Sy.No.108	Sy.No.111
6.	96	2	-	**Smt.Lakshmamma** W/o Sri.Nagaraju.D; **Smt.Channamma** W/o late Sri.Huchaiah & her son **Sri.Venkatesh**	Sy.No.97	Sy.No.118	Sy.No.110 & 106	Sy.No.99
7.	97	2	-	**Sri.Deepak Kiran.N.A** S/o Sri.Anjanamurthy	Sy.No.98	Sy.No.96	Sy.No.110	Sy.No.99
8.	98	2	-	**M/s Milhit Projects Infra Pvt. Ltd.,**	Sy.No.94	Sy.No.99	Sy.No.97	Sy.No.29
9.	99	2	-	**Sri.S.S.Ravi Gowda** S/o Sri.S.G.Srinivasa Gowda	Sy.No.98	Sy.No.87 & 88/2	Sy.No.96 & 97	Road
10.	108	1	28	**Smt.Baila Yellamma** W/o Sri.Durgaiah	Sy.No.95	Sy.No.98	Sy.No.32	Road
11.	111	2	-	**Sri.Manjunath** S/o Sri.Narayanaswamy	Sy.No.34	Sy.No.33	Sy.No.95	Sy.No.91/2 & 92/2

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भारतीय फिल्म और टेलीविज़न संस्थान, पुणे
FILM AND TELEVISION INSTITUTE OF INDIA, PUNE

NFDC

SUMMER FILM APPRECIATION COURSE 2026
1st June to 19th June 2026

A three-week, full-time Film Appreciation Course will be conducted from 1st June to 19th June, 2026, in Pune, under the joint auspices of the National Film Development Corporation of India (National Film Archive of India) and the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII).

This is an intensive course designed for the general public to promote comprehensive understanding and insights into the nature of cinema and other related forms and practices. These include recent developments like independent films, digital streaming and the OTT media.

Course Venue:
FTII- NFDC (NFAI), Phase II, Near Doordarshan Kendra, Rambaug Colony, Kothrud, Pune
Medium of Instruction: Primarily English

Age Requirement: Applicants must be at least 21 years old as of 01.01.2026
Application Fee: Rs. 1000/-
Last date for receipt of Applications is 30.04.2026 (6 pm IST).
For application process and more details, please visit - www.ftii.ac.in or scan the QR code

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Bangalore Times

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CONTRAPUNTO

Trees cause more pollution than automobiles do

– RONALD REAGAN, 1981

Dilli Sarcar

Delhi govt's war on old cars hurts environment in environment's name, punishes those of modest incomes

In India, consumer rights feel very conditional, and erratic. Case in point: Delhi CM has directed strict enforcement of the 'no PUC no fuel' policy. That's your right to an essential service, gone, poof. With petrol pump staff expected to police this pullback. Not to mention that before denying you fuel, because you don't have a PUC, govt has denied you a PUC. This is ghoul level, even Kafka can't touch. Pollution Under Control certificates are being held back from 'end-of-life' vehicles. Meaning diesel ones older than 10 years, petrol ones older than 15. The cause is holy: fighting pollution. The logic, batty. Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, countries whose capital is *never* the world's most polluted, don't discriminate against vehicles by age.

What they do, instead, is pass or fail a vehicle basis what actually comes out of its exhaust. They build rigorous, reliable inspection regimes, like Germany's TÜV, and Japan's Shaken. Precise, fair systems don't punish well-maintained older cars. They mobilise environmental price signals, which make running a dirty old car expensive, but also buying a new heavy SUV. By contrast, in ban-preferring India, utility vehicles – SUVs and MPVs – accounted for 67% share of passenger vehicle sales in FY26. The 'embodied carbon' cost (mining, smelting, fabrication, transport) of *all* new vehicles, makes scrapping older cars that run well inexcusable. But UVs carry extra ecological culpability. Remember, even BS6 compliance is linked to vehicle size, which means a big SUV meeting this standard has more absolute emissions, than a tiny old hatchback in good shape, which goes much further per litre of petrol.

Another indefensible thing about Delhi's scrappage fetish, is its wealth blinkers. Policymakers seem unable to see that for many families and small enterprises, upgrading to a new car is quite a challenge today. The downturn in India's small car sales is more than an aesthetic shift. It reflects how real monthly earnings for salaried as well as self-employed workers, have been dismally stagnant since Covid. Why push income-strained households to take on additional debt, where only auto companies and financiers benefit? Delhi's air quality crisis *is* acute. That's all the more reason for stringent pollution testing, targeting gross polluters, and fixing the metro's last-mile problem. Instead of illogical, unfair policies.

Holy Smokes!

UK's resolve to end tobacco use is good, but its new law to do so is an example of bad logic

James-I would have approved. The British monarch was a staunch opponent of tobacco, so much so that he wrote a pamphlet – 'A Counterblaste to Tobacco' – about it. In his words, smoking was a "custom loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain, dangerous to the lungs…" So, when Charles-III signs UK's Tobacco and Vapes Bill, James' 400-year-old dream of a tobacco-mukt Britain will be a step closer to realisation.

That's laudable. WHO estimates tobacco kills 70L people each year, 13L in India alone. In Britain, 10% of adult population smokes, resulting in 64,000 deaths a year. The numbers are compelling. And considering that 75% of British smokers wish they'd never started, the case for state intervention is stronger. But that's where the UK law gets puzzling. It aims to create a tobacco-free generation, by banning sale to anyone born after Jan 1, 2009. Soon, there will be two kinds of adults in UK: those who can smoke, and those who can't. This raises larger questions about adulthood and choice. What if a future law says people born after a random cutoff date may not use cash, or drive, or vote for a certain party, or convert to another faith?

The other problem with the UK law is that it's too slow. The country's life expectancy for women – who outlive men – is 83 years. If it doesn't rise, 2092 is the earliest that Britain might be tobacco-free. That's simply too long. New Zealand, which first introduced such a generational law in 2022, repealed it after a change of govt. It was murmured that tobacco firms pushed a campaign called 'Save Our Stores', to scrap it. The lobby won't sit quiet in UK, where tobacco has been smoked since at least 1565, when Admiral John Hawkins – uncle of William Hawkins, who visited Jahangir's court in 1609 – introduced it from America. High taxes and strict advertising rules can break the habit faster. Like the bucket of water that English statesman Walter Raleigh's servant threw, when he first saw his master smoking. He thought Raleigh was on fire. James-I would have approved.

Portrait of a lady

A grand dame of Kolkata's Park Street prepares to celebrate her 100th birthday

Jug Suraiya

Even as she prepares to turn 100 next year, a grand lady of Park Street in Kolkata remains as vibrant and vivacious as ever.

Of Swiss parentage, she made herself at home in what was then called Calcutta, one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the world, playing host to an amiable jostle of a dozen or more different communities.

With reciprocal generosity, she opened her doors to welcome an eclectic mix of guests, sleekly safari-suited businessmen and svelte socialites taking time off from canasta, boxwallah executives exuding self-importance and aftershave, and a 17-year-old college student trying not to look visibly awed by the muted elegance of the surroundings, the gold-tasselled red lampshades, the hush of deep-pile carpeting, the gleam of age-burnished wood.

I don't think I managed to look the sophisticate I pretended to be on what was my first of many visits to the lady.

From her bountiful kitchen emerged a zestful abundance of culinary delights, too numerous to mention. But perhaps what her home was most renowned for were the jam sessions she organised on a regular basis. These popular events did not involve the partaking of sweet preserves made from strawberries and other fruits, but were entertainments in which singers and musicians 'jammed' in melodious medley.

jugularvein

Among the more prominent performers was Mr Showbiz, Vivian Hansen, who could do a Cliff Richard so that you'd swear it was Cliffie himself singing, men, Anglo-Indian accent and all.

His feminine counterpart was Enchanting Eve, resplendent in her signature sheath dress, sartorial counterpoint to a voice of silken seduction.

A later arrival in the lady's salon was the inimitable Usha Iyer, later Uthup, who, sari-clad, belted out numbers of foot-tapping verve in English, Hindi, and sometimes in a fluency of both combined.

All these images and more come to me now like snapshots in a much-leafed family album, evoking the twilight glow of Calcutta of yesteryear, bringing memories like the dance of dust motes in a shaft of sunlight. And I raise a toast to the 99-year-young lady of Park Street called Trinca's.

Didi Dribbling Dadas

Mamata manages to not get tainted by excesses of Trinamool's strongmen, pitching herself as both a provider and a 'victim'. So, her supporters can vote for her while dissing her party

Satyaki Barua

First phase of one of the most contested elections came to a close on a whittled electorate, and a very high turnout (of 3.6cr voters) on the 152 seats that went to the hustings yesterday. In 2021, the score for these seats was TMC 92, BJP 59.

While campaigning, Mamata Banerjee had announced she is TMC's candidate for all 294 seats. She asked her voters to have faith in her, even if dissatisfied with her candidates. Her popularity makes her central to Bengal's political campaign, but will her supporters continue to do so, while disregarding problems, within the state and TMC, is the question.

Mamata, as hero of Bengal, not only serves as protector and provider, but also belongs to them. As a compassionate leader, she always recognised the struggles of her fellow men and women. Her calculated performances shape the state's political discourse – SIR prime and central – shifting all focus to her.

Manufactured hero | On Feb 4, Mamata became the first CM to argue before Supreme Court against SIR in Bengal. In her signature cotton saree, rubber flip-flops, and a black scarf, she showcased her best performance, as a 'street-fighter', always ready to challenge the oppressor, and stand up for the marginalised. Projection of her image was no less than a superhero's, when she walked the corridors of SC. This persona, combined with the image of benevolent 'didi', is integral to her personality cult.

Born into a lower middle-class family, Mamata made her underprivileged origin and background her central appeal. With her abrasive, unpolished language and street-style politics, she gained credibility among the subaltern masses and completely changed the Left's bhadralok hegemony.

Ill-treated by Congress leadership, she forged her own path by founding TMC in 1998. Portrayal of her struggles against attacks by Congress and CPM made her the 'perennial victim' in Bengal politics, which she used, to connect with, both citizens and grassroots-level party workers. It was also a way of sustaining various blows from her opponents, verbal and physical.

In the 2021 elections, the image of Mamata appearing in a wheelchair to campaign reinforced her maverick, charismatic personality – someone who cannot be stopped. Additionally, she internalises the presence of 'divine intervention' in rescuing her from these attacks.

This religious symbolism and beliefs shaped Trinamool's political rhetoric, mobilising the image of their supremo as a divinely ordained representative and protective, compassionate elder sister, under the dual representations of 'Didi' and 'Durga'.

POLLS 2026
Bengal, TN, Assam, Kerala

Image: AI

'No' to TMC, 'Yes' to Mamata | Since 2011, Mamata has been at the centre of TMC's electoral campaign. And IPAC's 2021 campaign 'Bangla Nijer Meye Ke Chai' (Bengal wants its own daughter) doubled down to accentuate the 'Mamata' brand. Currently, a vote for Mamata means a vote for Bengal and vice versa. Consequently, she becomes the sole custodian of Bengali asmita, a major political cleavage that blunts BJP's Hindutva pitch.

But, for her campaign's success, the outgoing govt, the party and Mamata are portrayed as separate entities. Didi remains the one reason her party secures massive victories. Her ascetic lifestyle, however, makes her completely opposed to her party. TMC is widely seen as corrupt, exploitative and violent. SSC and Sarada scams, Sandeshkhali and RG Kar incidents, at the very least, show the triumph of TMC strongmen. These individuals who hold govt positions in local govt have created their own syndicates by controlling and exploiting local political economies. Under Didi's franchise, they successfully run a 'Dada' (musclemen) culture in their regions.

But strangely enough, Mamata's image remains unaffected. In the dirt of her party, she is the 'virtuous' hero. Trust in her authority masks the significant damage. It is a study, how supporters live in contradictory worlds, where Mamata emerges as champion amid the mess created by her own party and govt.

Similarly, industrial decline, significant debt and high levels of unemployment paint a very grim picture of TMC's 15 years of incumbency. Her welfare model offers a quick fix and masks deeper economic issues. The hike in Lakshmir Bhandar scheme by ₹500 and introduction of Banglar Yuba Sathi scheme and Krishak Bandhu are an extension of Mamata's politics of protection.

While BJP accuses TMC of withholding Centre's social welfare schemes from reaching beneficiaries, with 100-plus state-aided schemes costing a mere 5% of the state's exchequer, TMC politicised the state's economic stagnation and turned it into Mamata's welfare vs BJP's unfair treatment.

Here, Mamata does more than fuse welfare with her politics. Her schemes defuse situations of economic distress by providing brief moments of relief. For her supporters, her govt has failed to fix the state's economy, but she hasn't forgotten the people.

This election, praising Mamata, and blaming the party, and the incumbent, sit together comfortably. Her grand personality and politics shifted the poll campaign and voters' focus from problems within the state, to a battle in which she is the opponent, with Amit Shah and Modi-led Centre as the enemy. If 'Didi' returns TMC to power, the party's long-term sustainability still remains uncertain.

The writer is a PhD candidate in Hyderabad Central University

Notes For Votes Don't Make Voters Better Off

Unconditional cash transfers just before elections may help fight anti-incumbency, but it bleeds the economy and has limited long-term gains in real welfare of the people

Neeraj Kaushal

Professor of Social Policy

A new pattern of freebie disbursement has spread its tentacles across the Indian polity, state elections at its core. Parties in govt, implement a plethora of freebies, just before elections. Voters enter polling booths, having already received freebies in kind, or as cash in their bank accounts.

Opinions differ on whether poll-time freebies impact election results. Politicians likely believe they do. In any case, even if freebies' impact is only modest, politicians dole them out in liberal amounts because these are, after all, not coming from their pockets or even from party coffers, but the state exchequer. The playing field of Indian elections gets tilted in favour of the ruling party.

Experts argue it isn't the size of the freebies per se, but efficiency of delivery that charms voters the most. For generations, voters have been used to seeing large chunks of promised benefits, from the state, siphoned away, by middlemen. For them, this is the dawn of a new era: the electoral system delivering unconditional transfers.

These election-time freebies are large and large-scale. The electorate is happy. Studies show that a happy electorate favours the party in office. Voters are, of course, free to vote for the opposition, and many do, after having duly enjoyed the freebies. Indian voters are quite savvy and freebies assure them, in an ironic way, that their votes are invaluable, and that the value lies in these being free.

Economic consequences of these humungous doles are well known, yet worth repeating. To cite the 2025-2026 Eco Survey, "the increasing reliance by some states on unconditional cash transfer programmes has altered expenditure composition, raising concerns about expenditure rigidity and medium-term fiscal flexibility. While such transfers serve important distributional objectives, their scale and design need to be balanced against the imperative of preserving space for growth-enhancing investments."

In simple language, Eco Survey's warned that freebies are making state govts bankrupt. If states dole out large chunks of their resources on freebies, there wouldn't be enough left for investments, which bring growth and development, such as providing healthcare, building schools, hospitals, roads, paying for teachers' salaries. These are not hypothetical issues, but problems that many Indian states have been grappling with, post-elections.

"The number of states implementing UCT (Unconditional Cash Transfers) increased more than fivefold between FY23 and FY26, with around half of these states estimated to be in revenue deficit," says the last Eco Survey.

Being in revenue deficit means that state govt doesn't have sufficient funds to meet its routine operating expenses (salaries, pensions, interest payments, subsidies). Investment in developmental activities, becomes, out of question.

Yet, this is the current state of India's popular democracy. All political parties – BJP in Haryana and MP, BJP-JDU alliance in Bihar, Congress in Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh, BJP's Mahayuti, Shiv Sena and NCP in Maharashtra, JMM-led alliance in Jharkhand, TMC in Bengal, or DMK in Tamil Nadu – have used state funds to give subsidies just before state elections. Anti-incumbency used to be the biggest obstacle to getting re-elected in India. Incumbents are now fighting it with large doses of freebies.

Not to be outdone, opposition parties make promises that far exceed what the party in office delivered. In Bengal, for instance, BJP has promised to nearly double the benefits under TMC schemes. Lakshmir Bhandar scheme under TMC gives ₹1,500 per month to women in general category and ₹1,700 to women in SC/ST category. BJP has promised to give ₹3,000 per month, if elected. Kanyashree scheme gives a one-time ₹25,000 when an unmarried girl turns 18, and is enrolled in college. BJP has promised to enhance the amount to ₹50,000.

A common feature in welfare transfers announced at election time is that they target women and youth, in particular, girls. Freebies are thus justified in the name of gender uplift and equality. Research shows funds allocated to women improve their position in the household. Equally, as Eco Survey notes, there are concerns that freebies reduce women's labour force participation.

Clearly, the battle for gender-inequality cannot be won with freebies. These battles have to be won within families, at workplaces, and in all the public and private spaces of society.

Supporters of UCT rightly argue these schemes increase distributional gains. Yet, there is little evidence that these gains are sustained, in the long term.

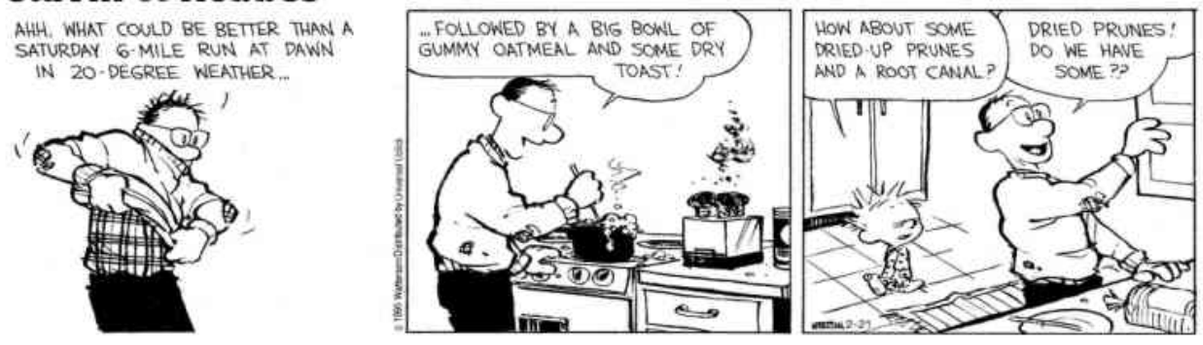
A meta-analysis of 115 randomised evaluations across 72 UCT programmes in 34 low- and middle-income countries finds that UCTs improve consumption, food security, and short-term income stability, but have little impact on consistently improving child nutrition, education, or reducing poverty.

Trends suggest size of UCTs will continue to rise, state coffers will continue to shrink, leaving no funds for capital expenditures, and, therefore, growth.

As Eco Survey points out, "Preserving fiscal space for capital formation and human-capital investment yields stronger and more persistent gains in household incomes, labour productivity, and welfare than a steady expansion of open-ended UCTs." Govt should heed the advice of its own experts.

The writer teaches at Columbia University

Calvin & Hobbes


AHH, WHAT COULD BE BETTER THAN A SATURDAY 6-MILE RUN AT DAWN IN 20-DEGREE WEATHER...
...FOLLOWED BY A BIG BOWL OF GUMMY OATMEAL AND SOME DRY TOAST!
HOW ABOUT SOME DRIED-UP PRUNES AND A ROOT CANAL?
DRIED PRUNES! DO WE HAVE SOME??

Sacredspace

There is only the Reality whatever you think it is, it looks like that. If you call it time, it is time. If you call it existence, it is existence, and so on... Time is immaterial for the Path of Knowledge.

Ramana Maharshi

Life Is Worth Living Only When Shared

P Raja

What is man, or for that matter, woman? The human body undergoes change every minute, every second, without our knowledge. We know that the body is present on Earth for a short span of time. We walk towards death unknowingly, and death walks towards us clandestinely. About the meeting point, God only knows, for it is said in Indic mythology that Brahma writes the newborn's fate on its forehead. You can also feel his hand when you furrow your forehead and touch the formed wrinkles. How true was the Danish writer Hans Christian Andersen of 'Literary Fairy Tales' fame when he said, "Every man's life is a fairy tale written by God's fingers."

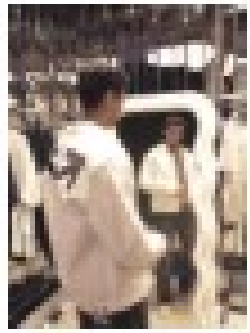
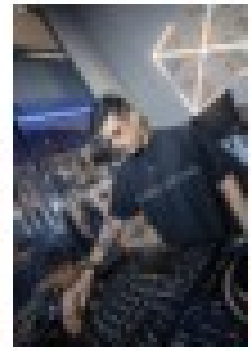
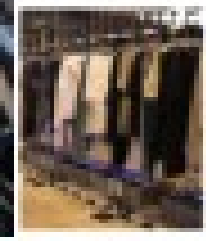
We have only one life, and it is very short. Why waste it on things we don't truly need? Shaiv Siddhant talks of the three impurities that affect our body: ego, karm, and illusion. These three impurities constitute a human being. A deer that mistakes a mirage for a water source, rushes towards it only to feel disappointed. So do we, when we mistake wealth as our refuge. Danger awaits those who get attached to material objects.

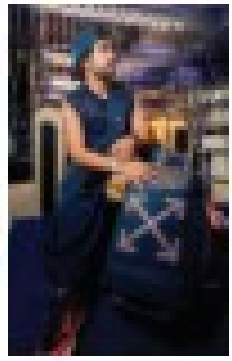
Paambaatti, the most outspoken Tamil Siddha, sang: "Of what use are the spongy mattress, the flowery bed and the cosy sheets when you are moved to the burial ground? Dance O Snake and aver that the fragrance of turmeric paste will vanish only to give rise to the stench of burning flesh," (verse 45). He simply means to say that only the ignorant make much ado about things of the illusory world. In another stanza, he gives a memorable solution to the problem: "What are these hoarders of gold going to take away with them when the Lord of Death summons them? Deathless are those who wield control over the mind and concentrate on the Supreme Being," (verse 44).

THE SPEAKING TREE

Life is like a bubble in water... What we must keep in mind is the impermanence of the body. If that is the case, we should be worthy of the life given to us by the Supreme. Life has meaning, and it is worth living because life is short. When we change our outlook, everything else changes. Before we change the world, we must change ourselves. Life becomes meaningless if we don't create an impact.

A Tamil folktale teaches us the art of living. A sadhu was moving with his disciples from a hamlet to a nearby village. The scorching sun was blistering their feet, and so they took shelter under a huge banyan tree. Standing under the shade of the tree, the disciples started cursing the ball of fire in the sky. The Sadhu advised them to think differently. He said, "How fortunate we are to find a bushy banyan tree in this heat? Trees live for the good of others. But people find pleasure in splintering them. We don't have to find fault with the sun. He is, after all, doing his duty. Instead, we should appreciate the tree that stands exposed to the sun, rain, and inclement weather. We should salute the tree that provides us with shade, expecting nothing in return. No tree lives for itself but for everyone. Our life is really worth living only when shared."



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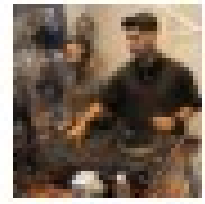
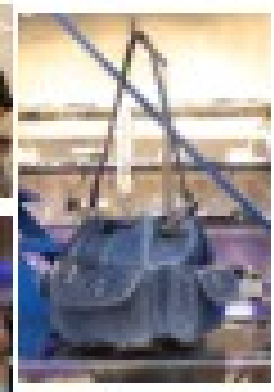
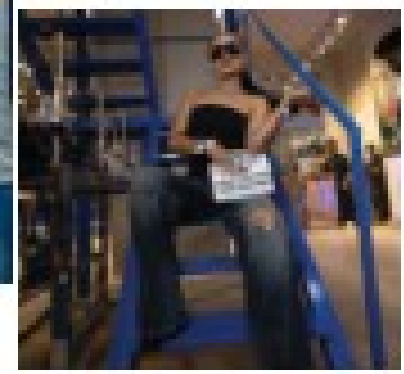





Monday's top item: Online on this edition and in that single moment everything OFFWhite has always stood for made complete sense. High fashion and street culture were never two different things. Online walked in and proved that point without saying a word. The store performed first. The crowd did not stand still and watch. They moved.

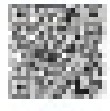
Mall of Asia did not look like a mall that morning. The entire facade was swallowed by the Off-White logo projected larger than anything the building had ever before. Barricades pushed edge to edge in the brand's iconic bright blue and orange. Before a single person walked in the message was already clear: This was not a store opening. This was a takeover.

Off-White did not arrive in India cold. It arrived to a country that already knew every campaign, every drop, every collab and by the time it was introduced to Off-White. It needed OFFWhite to finally show up.

The logo is on the wall. The store is open. The culture has an address.

Off-White India. Bengaluru. First.

FOLLOW US ON



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सं. 10/3/8, नृपतुंग मार्ग, बेंगलूरु- 560001

निविदा आमंत्रित करने की सूचना (केवल ई-खरीद पोर्टल के माध्यम से)

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बेंगलूरु ने निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए ई-निविदाएं आमंत्रित की हैं: कर्नाटक राज्य में मुद्रा नोट बॉक्स और सिक्का बैग के परिवहन के लिए ट्रकों की आपूर्ति। अनुमानित लागत ₹2.00 करोड़। सिक्कों की थैलों और नोटबक्सों को संभालने के लिए श्रमिकों की आपूर्ति। अनुमानित लागत ₹80 लाख। एनआईटी की तिथि 24-04-2026 है। जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि 15-05-2026 है। विस्तृत सूचना बैंक की वेबसाइट (www.rbi.org.in) के 'निविदा' खंड पर संबंधित निविदाओं की एनआईटी की तिथि को दोपहर 12:00 बजे से उपलब्ध होगी। ई-निविदाएं जमा करने के लिए, कृपया https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn पर एमएसटीसी पोर्टल पर जाएं। ई-निविदाओं में कोई भी संशोधन/शुद्धिपत्र, यदि भविष्य में जारी किया जाता है, तो केवल आरबीआई और उक्त एमएसटीसी वेबसाइट पर अधिसूचित किया जाएगा, इसे समाचार पत्र में प्रकाशित नहीं किया जाएगा। बैंक किसी भी या सभी निविदाओं को बिना कोई कारण बताए अस्वीकार करने का अधिकार सुरक्षित रखता है।

क्षेत्रीय निदेशक, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक, बेंगलूरु

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

No.10/3/8, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru- 560001

Notice Inviting Tender (Through e-procurement portal only)

Reserve Bank of India, Bengaluru invites e-tenders for the following works: Supply container trucks for transportation of currency note boxes and coin bags in the state of Karnataka. Estimated Cost ₹2.00 Crore. Supply of labourers for handling of coin bags and note boxes. Estimated Cost ₹80 Lakh. Date of NIT is 24-04-2026. Last date of submission is 15-05-2026. The detailed notice will be available at "Tenders" section of Bank's website (www.rbi.org.in) from 12:00 PM onwards on Date of NIT of respective tenders. For submission of e-tenders, please visit MSTC Portal at https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eprocn. Any amendments / corrigendum to the e-Tenders, if issued in future, will only be notified on the RBI and MSTC Website as given above and will not be published in the newspaper. The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Regional Director, RBI, Bengaluru

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
विदेशी मुद्रा विभाग
बेंगलुरु

विदेशी मुद्रा प्रबंध अधिनियम, 1999 की धारा 10(3) के तहत प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए, भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने निम्नलिखित कंपनी के संपूर्ण मुद्रा परिवर्तक (एफएफएमसी) लाइसेंस को स्वैच्छिक समर्पण के कारण रद्द कर दिया है:

क्र. स.	नाम और पंजीकृत कार्यालय का पता	लाइसेंस संख्या	जारी करने की तिथि	रद्द आदेश की तिथि
1.	मेसर्स मार्को पोलो ट्रावेल्स एण्ड टूर्स प्राइवेट लिमिटेड जनार्दन टावर्स सं. 2, रेसिडेंसी रोड बेंगलुरु – 560 025	बीएलआर-एफएफएमसी-0022-2023	26 मार्च 2025	06 अप्रैल 2026

मुद्रा परिवर्तन गतिविधियों पर दिनांक 1 जनवरी 2016 के मास्टर निदेशों, जिसे समय-समय पर अद्यतन किया गया है और जो आरबीआई की वेबसाइट (https://www.rbi.org.in) पर उपलब्ध है, के अनुसार रद्दीकरण के परिणामस्वरूप, उपरोक्त संपूर्ण मुद्रा परिवर्तक, मुद्रा परिवर्तन संबंधी लेनदेन या गतिविधियों को नहीं करेगा।

11001/13/2627

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BHUBANESWAR

No- HE-UE-COMM-0001-2021 21264 /HE, dtd. 22.04.2026

ADVERTISEMENT FOR APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR OF BERHAMPUR UNIVERSITY (BERHAMPUR, ODISHA)

Applications are invited from eligible applicants below 66 years as of 07.08.2026 (i.e. **born on or after 08.08.1960**) for the position of Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University. The applicant should be a distinguished academician of proven academic and administrative excellence and a well-rounded personality with a minimum of 10 years of experience as Professor in a University system or 10 years of experience in an equivalent position in reputed research and / or academic organization.

The post carries a fixed pay of Rs. 2,10,000/- (Rupees two lakhs and ten thousand) with Special Allowance of Rs. 11,250/- per month and other usual allowances such as Dearness Allowance. Provision of pay protection is applicable for candidates belonging to Central or State Government Public University or Institution. The tenure of the Vice-Chancellor will be four years from the date he/she assumes office or till he/she attains 70 years of age; whichever is earlier.

Instructions for Submission of Application for the Post of Vice- Chancellor of Berhampur University.

Applicants are advised to strictly adhere to the following guidelines while submitting their applications:

1. **Application Format and Submission Platforms**
   - Applications must be submitted **physically in the prescribed format (and digitally in HIMS website of which details shared below)** available for download at the Department's website **www.dhe.odisha.gov.in** and the websites of the concerned university.
   - Applicants are also required to fill out the required application digitally in the HIMS Portal available at **hims.odisha.gov.in/Application-for-post-of-VC**
   - The completed physical application form must be scanned and sent via **e-mail in PDF format only to hedsec.od@od.gov.in,** with the subject line: **"Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University".**
   - After the scanned copy is sent through email, applicants are required to send the hard copy of the application physically to the department at the following address with clear mention at the envelope -"Application for the post of Vice-Chancellor of Berhampur University".
     - **Address:**
       Office of Commissioner Cum Secretary, Higher Education Department, Lok Seva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg, Bhubaneswar-751001.
   - The e-mail submission must be accompanied by the physical submission through India Post Speed Post and digitally in the HIMS portal as stated above, failure of which will lead to rejection of the application.
2. **Submission Deadline**
   - Both the **e-mailed application (PDF format)** and the HIMS Module must be submitted no later than **23:55 hours on 24.05.2026.**
   - **Failure to complete both submissions** (HIMS Module and email) by the specified deadline shall result in **rejection of the application.**
3. **Submission of Hard Copy**
   - In addition to the online submission, a **hard copy** of the same application (as e-mailed), **duly ink-signed** and accompanied by all supporting documents, must be sent by **SPEED POST (India Post) only and not through courier** to the undersigned. Any other mode of submission of application will be liable for rejection.
   - The hard copy should reach the Department's office **on or before 29.05.2026.** However, any **hard copy of the applications received after 29.05.2026** will be rejected, even if the same is posted before the deadline through email and HIMS Module.
4. **Other Conditions**
   - In case **multiple applications** are submitted by a candidate, only the **last valid submission** digitally submitted on HIMS portal (as per timestamp of the HIMS Module) will be considered. All previous submissions shall be rejected.
   - **Late applications** received after the aforementioned deadlines via email, HIMS Module, or Indian Post will not be considered under any circumstances.
5. **Interview Process**
   - Shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview before a **three-member Selection Committee. The venue and schedule** will be communicated in due course.

Sd/-
Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government
Higher Education Department
Lok Seva Bhawan, Sachivalaya Marg
Bhubaneswar-751001
Ph.:- (0674) 2536862

OIPR-11001/11001/1/26-27/0004

Reserve Bank of India
Foreign Exchange Department
Bengaluru

In exercise of powers conferred on it under section 10 (3) of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Reserve Bank of India, has revoked the Full Fledged Money Changers (FFMC) license of the following company on account of voluntary surrender:

Sl. No	Name and Registered Office Address	License Number	Issued on	Cancellation Date
1.	M/s Marco Polo Travels and Tours Pvt Ltd. Janardhan Towers No.2 Residency Road Bengaluru – 560025	BLR-FFMC-0022-2023	March 26, 2025	April 06, 2026

Consequent to the revocation, the FFMC shall not undertake or transact money changing activities as specified in the Master Directions on Money Changing Activities dated January 01, 2016, updated from time to time, and available on the RBI website (https://www.rbi.org.in).

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APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF MEDICAL REFEREE ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR LIFE RE

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Medical Referee on Contract Basis for Life Re Department.

For detailed Advertisement **(GIC-HO/HR/CMR/47/2026-27),** please visit our website: **www.gicre.in**

For submitting your application, candidates are advised to refer to the "How to Apply" Section in Detailed Advertisement published under Careers Section of GIC Re website.

The Last date of submission of application: 10th May 2026

Deputy General Manager (HR)

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KARNATAKA, SURATHKAL

(An Institute of National Importance, Established under NITSER Act, Government of India)
MANGALURU - 575 025, KARNATAKA, INDIA

No.: NITK/Admin. Estt./Contract/2026/B1/01 Date: 23.04.2026

WALK-IN FOR CONTRACT POSITIONS

Applications are invited from Qualified Indian Nationals for engagement on Contract Basis for the following positions:

Scientific Officer (CRF), Legal & IPR Officer, Media & Graphics Officer, Placement Officer & Civil Engineer (Diploma/Graduate)

Interested candidates may apply online and obtain detailed information regarding eligibility, qualifications, experience, age limit, remuneration and selection process by visiting the Institute website:

https://www.nitk.ac.in/walk-in-for-contractual-position

Candidates are advised to regularly visit the website for further updates, including walk-in interview details.

Sd/-
Dean (FSW), NITK Surathkal

NMDC LIMITED

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CIN L13100TG1958GOI001674

Employment Notification No: 04/2026 Dated: 22.04.2026

NMDC Limited, a Navaratna Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Steel, Government of India and a multi locational, multi product and consistently profit-making Mining & Mineral Exploration Organization with large turnover. NMDC is in the process of massive expansion and diversification both in India and abroad.

NMDC is now inviting applications from eligible & willing candidates to apply for following contractual post for its projects

S.No.	Post	Grade	No.of Posts
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For detailed notification regarding post, grade, age, qualification, reservation and other conditions etc, interested candidates may visit **"Careers"** page of NMDC website, https://www.nmdc.co.in

AGM (HR)

SANT GADGE BABA AMRAVATI UNIVERSITY

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

No.SGBAU/1/103/3-192/2026 Date: 23/04/2026

Applications are invited for the post of **Director, Knowledge Resource Center of the University,** on or before 25 May 2026 (upto 5.00 P.M.)

Particulars of qualifications, pay-matrix, experience and other terms & conditions are available on the university website **www.sgbau.ac.in** in Advertisement section.

Registrar
Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University

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- Mining Engineering
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering

Mathematics
Chemistry
Physics
English/Sof skills

Librarian

Preferred Qualification & Experience

As per AICTE / UGC /D.T.E, M.S.Norms
At Least one - off 3 degrees should be from a reputed institution
Engineering: M.E./M.Tech, Ph.D Desirable
Min 3 years of industry/teaching experience for the post of Assistant Professors

Master's in the relevant subject with at least 55% marks or an equivalent grade.
NET/SLET/SET: Mandatory clearance of the National Eligibility Test (NET), or similar tests like SLET/SET.
Candidates with a Ph.D. in accordance with 2009/2016 UGC regulations are exempt from NET/SLET/SET requirements.
Preference for Ph.D. holders and those with 3-5 years of teaching experience in technical institutes

Bachelor of Library Science and Master of Library Science experience in Library Automation, e Resources, NDL etc.

About UIT

- UIT offers Diploma and B.Tech programs
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- Performance incentives
- Incentives for research, consultancy etc
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How to Apply

Send detailed CV with supporting documents to:
careers@uitgug.ac.in
www.unigug.ac.in, www.uitgug.ac.in
Application Last Date: 15th May 2026

The Director, UIT, At Adpalli, Dist. Gadchiroli – 442605 (M.S.)

UIT reserves the right to modify/cancel the advertisement.

Chairman, G.B., University Institute of Technology (UIT), Gadchiroli

A few of the 'Lucky 139' get to vote, but many of their kin don't

Poulami.Roy
@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: With last-minute relief following the publication of the appellate tribunal's supplementary list on Wednesday, a few of the 139 lucky voters, who had lost hope, finally got their index fingers inked.

Ainul Miah (30) from Cooch Behar was able to cast his vote at a booth under the Sitalkuchi assembly constituency. Though Ainul's name was included on the rolls, his sister's case is yet to be resolved. Ainul said, "My sister and I had both submitted all our documents, including our house deed, but our names were struck off. I am happy that I could finally vote, but my sister could not cast her vote."

Ainul, however, went to the booth in the second half of the day to cast his vote and said, "As an eligible voter, this is my fundamental right, which I lost under the category of logical discrepancy, where I had no specific role. It is a great relief for me, but I am still concerned for my sister, while my other siblings and my father voted as their names are in the final roll." Hakim Miya and Parvina Bibi, a couple also from Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar, cast their votes in the first half of the day.

BATTLEGROUND WEST BENGAL

SK Kismat and SK Kurban, twin brothers whose names were deleted, also had their names included after the appellate tribunal's supplementary list was out.

Five out of seven members of the family had their names deleted. All five brothers' names had been removed, while three of them were included.

Voters dressed in the attire of TVK chief Vijay at a polling station in north Chennai during the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections

4 voters die in Bengal on blazing hot day

Kolkata: Four voters in West Midnapore, Malda and Birbhum districts died — two after returning from polling booths, one inside, and another on the way — on a blazing hot day as Bengal voted in the first phase of assembly elections. IMD had forecast hot and humid conditions for places in Jhargram, Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum and West Midnapore. Two of the deaths were reported from Keshpur constituency. Sk Bablu, 66, complained of unease after casting, having waited in the searing heat. He was taken to hospital, where he was declared dead on arrival. TNN

Deleted voters turn up at poll booths to register their protest

Tamaghna Banerjee & Sukumar Mahato | TNN

Behrampore/Shamsherganj: Despite police in Murshidabad warning people, whose names were struck off the SIR, not to go to vote, many turned up near polling stations on Thursday to register their protest at being left out.

Clutching his voter ID, Aadhaar card and other documents, Behrampore toto driver Imtiaz Khan (41) stood dressed in a white shirt and black trousers, pleading with central forces personnel for permission to meet election officials. His request was to lodge a formal protest.

"I submitted my documents and attended hearings five times. Everything is valid. I have been voting for 20 years. I even approached the tribunal, but nothing happened. My wife and other family members are voting, but I can't," said Khan, a resident of Ambedkar Pally Muslimpara. Beside him stood Somnath Kangsabanik (42), a cook whose name was struck off the voters' list along with his four relatives. "Five out of 13 in our family have been deleted. Still, I have come to the booth — this is my protest," he said.

The sense of exclusion cut across generations. Syed Reza Ali Meerza (82), who traces his lineage to Mir Jafar — the commander-in-chief of Siraj-ud-Daulah's army who later became Nawab of Bengal — had planned a protest after his and his son's names were struck off.

HC slams EC for 'abusing power' to put curbs on bikes

'Unreasonable Attempt To Halt Everything'

Subrata Chattoraj & Dwaipayan Ghosh | TNN

Kolkata: Calcutta HC on Thursday slammed EC for imposing a 48-hour restriction on motorbikes in Kolkata and South 24 Parganas from 6pm on April 27, saying, "Declare an emergency... Citizens' rights cannot be curtailed in this manner."

Justice Krishna Rao, who was hearing a petition challenging the order, criticised EC for "abusing its power" and called the restriction a "drastic move".

Thousands of two-wheeler users across the state expressed a collective sense of relief following the HC's intervention. For Kolkata's middle-class commuters — and especially gig-economy workers — the court's scepticism was hailed as a victory for the common citizen. Across Kolkata's major intersections, bikers on Thursday noted that the court finally voiced the questions they had been asking since the notification was first issued.

EC had on April 21 announced that starting 6pm on April 27, one could ride a bike only from 6am to 6pm till polls ended on April 29. Pillion-riding and bike rallies were banned during the period. Medical emergencies, family functions and essential services were exempt from the curbs.

EC said the restriction had been imposed to conduct "free, fair, peaceful and violence-free" polls and to maintain a "conducive atmosphere for voters" and to prevent "untoward incidents, intimidation or source jamming".

Addressing the lawyer representing EC, Justice Rao said, "Show where such notifications are issued in other states. Just because Election Commission has power doesn't mean anything can be done. Citizens are being harassed... You have a police administration and CCTV, so what's the need for this? Shut everything down. You've issued a notification. On what basis? Where is the precedent? Provide references. This is an unreasonable attempt to halt everything for so long."

Asking the EC to submit an affidavit on Friday explaining the rationale for the restriction, the judge said, "Why isn't your authority declaring an emergency? Declare an emergency two days prior and conduct the election. This implies authorities' failure. Citizens' rights cannot be curtailed in this manner. Then ban cars, too. People can still cause trouble with bombs and arms."

Justice Rao also sought to know the number of FIRs registered against motorcyclists in the last five years.

'ABUSE OF POWER'

EC order | Bikes allowed only from **6am to 6pm** during 48-hr period **from 6pm on April 27, pillion-riders banned.** Emergencies, family functions, essential services exempt

> Why isn't your authority declaring an emergency? Declare an emergency two days prior and conduct the election. This implies authorities' failure. Citizens' rights cannot be curtailed in this manner... —CALCUTTA HC

POLL VAULT

At 99, H V Hande, a veteran physician, five-time legislator and former Tamil Nadu health minister, voted on Thursday, recalling his first ballot in 1946

Agnimitra alleges attack during poll

Allegations of violence marked voting in Asansol South Thursday, with BJP candidate **Agnimitra Paul**'s car allegedly vandalised. Paul, the incumbent MLA, accused Trinamool of orchestrating the attack and filed a police complaint after stone-pelting damaged her car.

Biryani sales surge

Polling day saw brisk biryani sales across Chennai. With shops shut, voters thronged stalls and eateries after casting ballots.

Chennai conundrum: Lower turnout, yet higher 'percentage'

Omjasvin.MD@timesofindia.com

Chennai: Chennai's headline-grabbing turnout of 83.7% masks a quieter reality — actually, fewer people voted compared to the past two assembly elections.

In percentage terms, data till 9.30pm (excluding postal ballots) showed as if the city logged a sharp jump from 60% in 2021 and 61.2% in 2016. But in absolute terms, only about 23.7 lakh votes were polled this year, lower than the 24.16 lakh polled in 2021 and 24.3 lakh recorded in 2016. Nearly 15,000 postal ballots were registered in 2021.

The drop is more pronounced over time. While 2021 saw a marginal dip of 17,100 votes from 2016, 2026 recorded a larger fall of around 47,000 votes (as of 9pm) from 2021 levels, despite the 'surge' in turnout percentage. Five out of the 16 core city constituencies saw marginal increase in the turnout, while Perambur recorded almost the same turnout. Kolathur saw 5,000 more voters than last time, while Thiru Vi Ka Nagar saw 7,000 more voters. Velachery's turnout increased by about 2,000. RK Nagar saw 10,000 fewer voters as of 9pm, compared to 2021, while Perambur touched around the same 2 lakh votes it polled last time. Villivakkam saw 7,000 fewer votes. Chepauk and Royapuram saw 1,000 and 3,000 increase respectively.

The reason: A shrinking voter base. Following the SIR revision, Chennai's electorate fell sharply from over 40 lakh in 2021 to 28.3 lakh in 2026. A smaller denominator has inflated the turnout percentage, even as the total votes polled declined. In simple terms, a larger share of a smaller pool has voted.

Though the near-similar number of voters cast their ballots in three elections — 2011, 2016 and 2021 — Chennai has swung between DMK and AIADMK. Arun Krishnamurthy, psephologist at Krish Info Media, said the revised rolls reflect a "more realistic electorate".

TIMELESS LAXMAN

FROM THE ARCHIVES: R K Laxman's cartoon on the front page of The Times of India on Feb 16, 1971

PM Modi lauds EC for 'record turnout', 'minimal violence' in phase-1 polls

RohitKhanna@timesofindia.com

Kolkata: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday praised the Election Commission for conducting first phase of Bengal polls with "minimal violence" and a "record turnout", claiming the high voter turnout pointed to a "storm of change". Speaking at a rally in Krishnanagar, Modi said: "The EC has established a democratic process here, it is a big achievement." Modi said: "Polling in the first phase shows that women and youth have opened the floodgates against TMC. Our mothers and daughters were tortured the most, and women are the harbingers of change this time."

He claimed the surge showed the victory of "bharosa" (trust) over "bhay" (fear).

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Dy.Chief Engineer/Headquarter (Purchase Cell-3) GGSSTP, Rupnagar invites E-Tender ID No. 2026_POWER_166689_1 for BREAK DOWN/PREVENTIVE MTC & OVERHAULING OF BFP'S/CEP'S/CWP'S/ BCW'S/MISC. PUMPS AND ALLIED AUXILIARIES OF 4X210 MW BHEL MAKE UNITS
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22.04.2026/5:00 PM onwards.
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
RTP-43/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10807

कार्यालय नगर निगम, पाली (राज.)
(लालबहादुर शास्त्री टाऊन हॉल, सूरजपोल के पास, पाली, पिनकोड-306401)
टेलीफोन :- 02932-250033, ई-मेल :- cmcpali@yahoo.co.in
क्रमांक :- पा. 12( )/विकास/2026/02 दिनांक :- 10/04/2026
ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 02/2026 - 2027
नगर निगम, पाली की ओर से मुख्यमंत्री बजट घोषणा 2025 – 26 के अन्तर्गत स्वायत्त शासन विभाग / नगर निगम व अन्य विभागो मे "एए" श्रेणी मे पंजीकृत संवेदको से 1 कार्य की (अनुमानित लागत रू 725.00 लाख) ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। संवेदक दिनांक 11.04.2026 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से दिनांक 07.05.2026 को सांय 6.00 बजे तक आर्नलाईन निविदाऐ जमा करा सकते है। निविदा से सम्बन्धित अन्य विवरण वेबसाई **http://spp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** से तथा अधोहस्ताक्षरकर्ता के कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते है। उक्त 01 कार्य के यूबीएन संख्या निम्नानुसार है।
UBN : DLB2627WLOB01346
राज.संवाद/सी/26/1359 आयुक्त नगर निगम पाली

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001.
Corporate Identity Number:U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in (Contact no. 96461-20640)
Tender Enquiry no. 1920/CS&HMMC/O&M/PC-2786 Dated: 22-04-2026
Chief Engineer / O&M (P&P Cell-I), GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat-151111 Distt. Bathinda invites E-tender for the **Procurement of Track Shoe Assemblies and other Undercarriage spares for BEML make Bulldozers BD-155.** Quantity as per NIT. For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to https://eproc.punjab.gov.in from **22-04-2026** from 17:00 hrs. Onwards.
Note: Corrigendum and Addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
GHTP-43/26, DPR/Pb.:1079/12/2026-27/10797

pstcl PUNJAB STATE TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(REGD. OFFICE: PSEB HEAD OFFICE, THE MALL, PATIALA)
CORPORATE IDENTITY NUMBER: U40109PB2010SGC033814
O/o Dy CE/Civil Design, PSTCL, Patiala
E-mail-se-cw-pta@pstcl.org Mob 96461-17841,96461-19429
Short Term E-Tender No.01/CD/2026-27
Supply & Delivery of Portland Portland Pozzolona Cement Conforming to IS 1489/1991 (Part I) (with amendments) packed in HDPE/ PP Bags (containing 20 bags in MT) on FOR basis.

PSTCL store at Ablowal (Patiala)	3000 MT
PSTCL store at Jamshor (Jalandhar)	3300 MT
Total	6300 MT

Last date & time for submission of Documents 06-05-2026 up to 12.00 P.M. Opening of EMD (NIL) & technical bids 07-05-2026 At 12.00 P.M.
Note: It is informed that in case tender process is not completed due to any reason, no corrigendum will be published in newspapers. Details regarding corrigendum may be seen on official PSTCL website **www.pstcl.org.** Terms and conditions may be downloaded from PSTCL's web site **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** -sd-
Dy. CE/Civil Design
DPR/Pb.:1078/12/2026-27/10779 PSTCL, Patiala

Prayagraj Mela Authority
Triveni Bhawan, Triveni Bandh, Daraganj, Prayagraj
+91 532 2500775/+91 532 2504011,
maghmela26@gmail.com
The Prayagraj Mela Authority Invites below mentioned bids :-
1. Expression of Interest for operations & maintenance of a comprehensive Entertainment Zone in Sangam Area.
The EOI Documents shall be made available on the Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in from Sr. No. 1-23rd April 2026 onwards. Interested parties may download/upload their proposal and details regarding the EOI shall be made available on Uttar Pradesh E-Procurement website https://etender.up.nic.in.
Addl. Meladhikari,
Prayagraj Mela Authority,
Prayagraj.

उच्च शिक्षा निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड
नवाड़खेड़ा गौलापार, हल्द्वानी (नैनीताल) पिन-263126
9997686960 E-Mail-highereducation.director@gmail.com
ई-निविदा दिनांक 23.04.2026
उच्च शिक्षा विभागान्तर्गत मुख्यमंत्री युवा भविष्य निर्माण योजना संचालित किये जाने हेतु राज्याधीन विश्वविद्यालयों एवं शासकीय तथा अनुदानित महाविद्यालयों में उच्च शिक्षा ग्रहण कर रहे छात्रों हेतु रक्षा सेवाएं **सी0डी0एस0/सी0ए0पी0एफ0 आदि** की प्रतियोगी परीक्षाओं की कोचिंग हेतु देश के विभिन्न प्रतिष्ठित उच्च शिक्षण संस्थानों से ई-निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है। इससे सम्बन्धित सभी सूचनायें http//www.uktenders.gov.in पर उपलब्ध है। आमंत्रण ई-निविदा का विवरण निम्नवत् है:-

क्र0 सं0	विवरण	दिनांक
1	पोर्टल में निविदा उपलब्ध होने की तिथि	25 अप्रैल, 2026
2	निविदा हेतु प्री बिड सम्मेलन	11 मई, 2026 पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे
3	प्री बिड में उठाए गए बिन्दुओं पर स्पष्टीकरण ऑनलाईन अपलोड	15 मई, 2026 पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे
3	निविदा जमा (Online) करने की अन्तिम तिथि	25 मई, 2026 सांय 5:00 बजे तक
4	निविदा प्रपत्र की उपलब्धता	http//www.uktenders.gov.in
5	निविदा की तकनीकी प्रस्ताव खोले जाने की तिथि व समय	26 मई, 2026 पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे
6	निविदा के वित्तीय प्रस्ताव खोले जाने की सम्भावित तिथि	29 मई, 2026 पूर्वान्ह 11:00 बजे

निदेशक, उच्च शिक्षा,
उत्तराखण्ड हल्द्वानी।

32001/110/2627
GOVERNEMNT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
LOWER SUKTEL IRRIGATION PROJECT, BALANGIR,
AT-LALTIKRA, DIST:- BALANGIR, PIN-767002.
email-Id- ccelsp@gmail.com
Government of Odisha "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
No. 2/2026-27 of CCE, LSP, Balangir

1	Type of work	CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT CONCRETE APPROACH ROAD FROM SH-42 TO RR COLONY HARDATAL OF LSIP, BALANGIR
2	Nos. of works	1 (one) no. of package
3	Class of Contractor	'B' or 'A' Class Contractor
4	BID identification number	04/2026-27 of CCE, LSP, Balangir
5	Estimated Cost	Rs.2,09,31,923/-
6	Period of completion	4 (Four) months
7	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	27.04.2026 at 10.30 AM to 11.05.2026 up to 05:30 PM
8	Last date/time for receipt of bid in the portal	11.05.2026 up to 5.30 PM
9	Date of opening of technical bid	12.05.2026 at 10:30 AM.
10	Name & Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Chief Construction Engineer, Lower Suktel Irrigation Project, Balangir, At- Laltikra, Dist- Balangir, PIN-767002

(i) Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **http://tendersodisha.gov.in**.
(ii) Any corrigendum / addendum/cancellation will be displayed in the Govt. Website only.
Sd/-
Chief Construction Engineer
Lower Suktel Project, Balangir
OIPR-32001/32448/1/26-27/0002

15001/26/2627
Government of Odisha
Information and Public Relations Department
IPR-FP-GP-0005-2026/6759/IPR Dated: 23.04.2026
1st Corrigendum
Tender Call Notice No. 5956 Dtd: 09.04.2026
In continuation of the TCN No.5956 Dtd:09.04.2026 inviting bids for "selection of a competent Agency for **Supply, Installation, Operation and Maintenance of 65 (Sixty-Five) Outdoor Digital LED Display Boards** at designated locations in and around Puri for the occasion of **Puri Shri Jagannath Rath Yatra 2026** for a **fixed-duration on rental/operational basis for a period of 15 (Fifteen) days"**, it is hereby informed to all concerned that some modifications are made in the tender document. Please visit the department websites, i.e., **https://inpr.odisha.gov.in** & **https://odisha.gov.in** for detail information.
Sd/-
Director, I&PR
OIPR-15001/15001/1/26-27/0026

34001/68/2627
Government of Odisha "e" Procurement Notice
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No. CCEKC - 02/2026-27
e-mail: ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com/sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No. 1839 dt. 15.04.2026

1.	No. of the work	: 3 number of Building Works
2.	Estimated cost	: Rs. 166.34 Lakhs to Rs. 435.92 Lakhs
3.	Class of Contractor	: "B" Class to "A" Class
4.	Period of completion	: 07 (Seven) Calendar Months to 11 (Eleven) Calendar Months
5.	Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	: From 11.00 Hours of 27.04.2026 to 16.00 Hours of 11.05.2026
6.	Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	: 16.00 Hours of 11.05.2026
7.	Date of opening of Bid from Portal	: 11.30 Hours on 12.05.2026
8.	Name and address of the officer inviting Bid	: Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "**http://tendersodisha.gov.in**"
Sd/- **Chief Construction Engineer**
Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar
OIPR-34001/34033/1/26-27/0003

30001/10/2627
ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in
OMC ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LTD. Mining Happiness
Short Notice
For Sale of High Carbon Ferrochrome (HCFC)
The Odisha Mining Corporation Ltd. intends to sell various grades of High Carbon Ferrochrome (HCFC) produced at Ferro chrome plant, OMC Ltd. situated at Jajpur Road in jajpur District of Odisha through National e-auction. The e-auction will be conducted by MSTC Ltd. on **dt.27.04.2026 from 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM.**
For details, please visit the website of MSTC i.e **www.mstcecommerce.com**.
OIPR-30001/30005/1/26-27/0010 Chief General Manager (S&M)

34001/69/2627
OFFICE OF THE
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B)
NIRMAN SOUDHA BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. S.E.E.C (R&B) 03/2026-27
No. 1556 /Date : 15.04.2026
The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in.** The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from dt. 27.04.2026 at 05.00 P.M. to dt. 11.05.2026 upto 05.00 P.M. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened dt. 12.05.2026 at 11.30 A.M. in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.**
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, BBSR
OIPR - 34001/34006/1/26-27/0003

32001/104/2627
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
O/o THE CHIEF ENGINEER AND BASIN MANAGER
MAHANADI BASIN, AT-BURLA, DISTRICT-SAMBALPUR, PIN-768017
E-mail Id - cebmumbburla@gmail.com
'e' Procurement Notice No-CE & BM-MB-48/2026-27 (Online)
BID IDENTIFICATION NO-CE & BM-MB-48/2026-27 (Online)

1.	Name of the work	: Renovation of Canal System of Hirakud Dam Project of Larasara Canal Section.
2.	No of works	: One (01) number
3.	Class of contractor	: "A Class" and "Special Class"
4.	Bid identification No.	: CE&BM-MB-48/2026-27 (Online)
5.	Estimated cost	: Rs. 19.82 Crores
6.	Period of completion	: 24 (Twenty-Four) Calendar Months
7.	Date and time of availability of Bid Documents in the portal	: Dated- 28.04.2026 at 11.30 AM to Dated-19.05.2026 upto 5.00 PM.
8.	Last date/time for receipt of Bids in the portal	: Dated- 19.05.2026 upto 5.00 PM.
9.	Date of opening of Technical Bid (Cover-I)	: Dated- 20.05.2026 at 11.30 AM, O/o Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla
10.	Name and Address of the Officer inviting Bid	: Chief Engineer & Basin Manager, Mahanadi Basin, Burla, Dist-Sambalpur, Odisha, 768017, Email Id: cebmumbburla@gmail.com

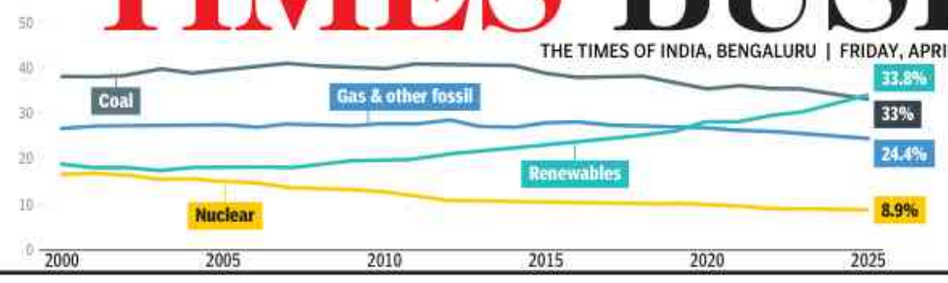
1. Any addendum/corrigendum/ cancellation/ erratum of tender can also be seen in the said website.
2. Further details can be seen from Government Website **http://tendersodisha.gov.in.**
Sd/-
Chief Engineer & Basin Manager
Mahanadi Basin, Burla
OIPR - 32001/32508/1/26-27/0002

TIMES BUSINESS
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

Ten years after the Paris Agreement was signed by the UN member states in 2016, the global energy transition is beginning to reshape the electricity mix.

Renewables have now overtaken coal as the world's largest source of electricity generation.
In 2025, renewables accounted for 33.8% of global power output, slightly ahead of coal at 33%, according to a study

Share of global electricity generation by source



Clean power sources fully covered the world's fresh electricity demand in 2025, according to a report. Low-carbon power generation increased by 887 terawatt-hours (TWh) between 2024 and 2025, while global electricity use rose by 849 TWh:

Change in electricity generation in 2025 vs 2024 by source (in TWh)

Source: Ember, Statista

Peace talks in limbo, crude rise hits D-St, sensex slides

Benchmark Index Falls 852 Pts | Brent Breaches $103 Per Barrel

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: With Brent crude hovering over $103/barrel and rupee below 94-to-a-dollar, sensex slid over 852 points (1.1%) on Thursday to 77,664 points. Foreign funds were aggressive sellers with the net outflow at Rs 3,255 crore, their biggest single-session net sell-off in two weeks, BSE and NSDL data showed.

The fluid nature of the second round of peace talks between the US and Iran took its toll on markets globally. The continuing naval blockades in and around Persian Gulf, and Iran's seizure of two ships kept risk sentiment fragile, market players said.

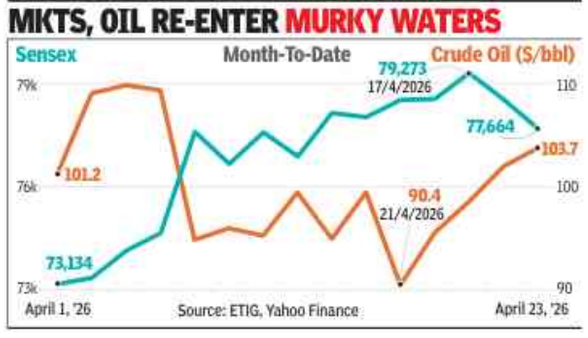
Due to the global risk-off sentiment, sensex opened slightly more than 500 points down, regained some lost ground to over the 78.1K mark but then in late sell-off slid to an intra-day low at 77,574 points and closed a tad off that mark. On NSE, Nifty, too, followed a similar path to close at 24,173 points, down by 205 points.

According to Ankur Punj, MD & business head, Equirus Wealth, domestic markets fell sharply as weak global cues pushed local investors to cut their exposure in banking, IT, auto and realty stocks. "There is no clarity on peace talks between the US and Iran, which has led to renewed uptick in global crude prices. "With rupee on the boil, breaching the 94-per-dollar mark and the continuing (foreign) fund outflows from the domestic equities, there will be a lot of pessimism in the near term."

It was the fourth consecutive session for the rupee to weaken against the dollar. This was the first time this month that the rupee closed below the 94 mark. Due to the sell-off, investors were left poorer by a little over Rs 3 lakh crore with BSE's market capitalisation now at Rs 466.4 lakh crore, official data showed.

The day's slide in the sensex came on the back of sharp selling in HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Reliance Industries. On the other hand, some buying in stocks like L&T and Bharti Airtel cushioned the fall, but only marginally, BSE data showed.

MKTS, OIL RE-ENTER MURKY WATERS



Source: ETIG, Yahoo Finance

Rupee down 30p, closes 94.1 to a dollar

The rupee breached the 94 mark to close at 94.1 on Thursday, down about 30 paise from its previous close of 93.8, after touching an intra-day low of 94.39 per US dollar. The currency has now fallen for four consecutive sessions and is down over 1% so far this week. The weakness has been driven by a roughly 15% surge in crude prices, with oil trading above $100 per barrel. TNN

India, Qatar discuss ways to strengthen trade, supply chains

New Delhi: India and Qatar on Thursday held discussions on ways to boost bilateral trade and strengthen supply chain resilience, which has been disrupted due to the West Asia crisis. The meeting was held between commerce and industry minister **Piyush Goyal** and Qatari minister of state for foreign trade affairs Ahmed bin Mohammed Al Sayed.

"We discussed ways to further enhance our bilateral trade and investment ties. Looking forward to deepening our strategic partnership in the times ahead," Goyal said in a post on social media.

Goyal recently discussed trade and supply chain related issues with trade ministers of other GCC members also. It included Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Kuwait. All these countries are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) with which India is in the process negotiating a free trade agreement. AGENCIES

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No need to carry a physical debit card
Enhanced security from debit card frauds
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Faster deposits with simpler steps
Scan to download YONO SBI
Lifestyle & banking, dooo.
For assistance, call 1800 1234 | 2100 or visit bank.sbi
Follow us on

Infosys guides 1.5%-3.5% FY27 growth, headcount drops 8k in Q4

Firm Reports Strong Large Deal Wins Worth $14.9 Billion; Demand Resilient, Operating Margins Steady At 20%-22%

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Infosys shares fell 6% in early NYSE trade after the company forecast broad-based revenue growth of 1.5% to 3.5% for FY27, while maintaining that underlying demand remains resilient despite geopolitical uncertainty. Its operating margin guidance remains unchanged at 20%-22%.

For the March quarter, revenue grew 4.1% year-on-year in constant currency but declined 1.3% sequentially. In dollar terms, revenue stood at $5 billion, up 6.6% YoY. For FY26, revenue rose 3.1% in constant currency, while dollar revenue came in at $20.1 billion, marking a 4.6% increase. The company's growth ranked second among peers, behind HCLTech's 3.9%. It ended the year with an operating margin of 21%.

Infosys reported strong large deal wins of $14.9 billion, underscoring the strength of its enterprise AI value proposition and gains in market share across large transformation opportunities. "We saw growth in FY26, with strength in govt, energy, utilities and resources. AI services are growing well, and large deals remain strong, with net new at 55% for the full year, supporting future growth," said CEO Salil Parekh. "At the same time, we continue to see the compression discussed earlier in our AI briefing, with no material change from last quarter."

CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka said FY26 growth of 3.1% came despite a 1% drag from lower third-party revenue and a 70-basis-point impact from onsite mix, and should be viewed in that context. On FY27 guidance, of the three transactions announced last year, the Stratus insurance acquisition has closed and is included, contributing about 25 basis points. The Optimum acquisition and a JV with an Australian client are yet to close and are not factored in. Infosys is strengthening its healthcare and insurance capabilities through acquisitions worth up to $560 million to expand its US footprint. It is acquiring Optimum Healthcare IT for up to $465 million to deepen its presence in the provider segment, and Stratus for up to $95 million to bolster its P&C insurance capabilities and accelerate AI-led transformation. On margins, Sanghrajka said: "Quarter on quarter, margins saw a 50-basis-point impact from acquisition-related amortisation and a 30-basis-point headwind from the absence of a one-off Q3 benefit. There was also a 20-basis-point impact from compensation-related factors, partly offset by a 40-basis-point currency tailwind and around 30 basis points from operational performance."

Headcount declined by about 8,000 sequentially in the quarter but rose by 5,016 year on year to close the year at 3.2 lakh employees. The company attributed the decline to softer volumes, lower utilisation and seasonality, rather than any structural slowdown.

CEO Salil Parekh said the company is not limiting hiring to a single skill profile but bringing in talent with varied capabilities, including AI-aligned skill sets with differentiated starting compensation. He said Infosys is also building a forward-deployed engineering team to work more closely with clients on business and technology challenges, enabling faster development of AI-led solutions. "These two areas are being developed quite rapidly, and the skilling programme is well underway," Parekh said, adding that over 90% of employees are being trained across different AI platforms. A forward-deployed engineer is a customer-facing software engineer who works closely with client teams in embedded roles to customise, deploy and support complex software systems.

Infosys continues to hire aggressively from campuses, adding over 20,000 freshers in FY26 and planning a similar intake in FY27.

On wage hikes, Sanghrajka said, "We haven't really made a decision at this point in terms of the quantum and timing of it."

Betting On New AI Opportunities

Company	FY26 over FY25 revenue growth CC	Q4 revenue growth YoY CC	Operating margin FY26	TCV FY26 ($/bn)	Net addition FY26
TCS	-2.4	-0.6	25	40.7	-23,460
Infosys	3.1	4.1	21	14.9*	5,016
Wipro	-1.6	-0.2	17.2	16.4	8,810
HCLTech	3.9	2.4	17.2	9.3	3,761
TechM	0.6	2.4	12.6	3.7	-1,108

Source: Regulatory Filings | *Only Large Deal TCV reported

"Although AI-driven productivity gains and pricing pressure cause some compression, new opportunities in AI services are offsetting this. Overall, the demand environment remains stable, with no material change from the previous quarter"
Salil Parekh | CEO, INFOSYS

In Feb, RBI purchased $7.4bn in forex mkt

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Reserve Bank of India ramped up dollar purchases in Feb, signalling a shift to rebuilding forex reserves after the rupee stabilised following the US–India trade deal announcement in the same month.

Despite heavy spot purchases, net forward sales stood at $77.7 billion, indicating continued reliance on forward markets. While Feb did provide an opportunity for reserve rebuilding, a significant part of the reserves were depleted in March when the rupee came under pressure in the wake of the US-Iran conflict which began on Feb 28.

According to the RBI Bulletin in April, the central bank was a net buyer of $7.4 billion in the over-the-counter (OTC) market, with gross purchases of $21.4 billion and sales of $14 billion, injecting Rs 66,881 crore into the system. In the futures segment, it stayed neutral, with zero net intervention, while trimming its outstanding net sales position to $522 million.

The intervention marked a sharp jump from Jan's $2.5 billion, suggesting RBI moved quickly to absorb inflows as volatility eased. The rupee's stability after the Feb 6 trade announcement likely boosted sentiment and triggered capital inflows, giving RBI space to accumulate reserves without pushing the currency higher.

This marks a reversal from Feb 2025, when RBI sold $1.6 billion to support the rupee, and from FY25, when it was a consistent net seller averaging $2.9 billion monthly.

Outward remittances dip in Feb

Mumbai: Outward remittances softened in Feb, falling 12.8% month-on-month to $2.3 billion, though they remained 19% higher than a year earlier and 5% below the FY25 monthly average of $2.4 billion, suggesting a pause after recent strength.

Travel continued to dominate at $1.3 billion, accounting for 55.9% of outflows, despite a 21% sequential decline; it still rose 19.8% on year but remained below its FY25 average. TNN

Premji Invest backs NewEra Hospitals

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bengaluru: Premji Invest has invested in Maharashtra-based multispecialty hospital platform NewEra Hospitals. The capital will be deployed to fund three new hospitals in Nagpur and expand the company's total capacity to 800 beds from the current 350.

The companies said on Thursday that the funding will support the addition of 450 beds across the new facilities, as NewEra aims to scale up quaternary care services in the region. The hospital chain currently operates two hospitals in Nagpur and one in Navi Mumbai.

While the financial details of the transaction were not disclosed, the investment comes at a time when regional hospital platforms are attracting strong investor interest amid rising demand for specialised care beyond major metropolitan areas.

NewEra Hospitals, founded in 2016 by doctors Anand Sancheti, Nilesh Agrawal, and Nidheesh Mishra, focuses on complex specialties including neurosciences, transplants, and cardiology.

The company said the expansion is intended to strengthen access to advanced healthcare infrastructure in Maharashtra.

Bank lending reclaims top spot in FY26 funding mix

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bank lending is back in favour. In FY26 it reclaimed primacy in financing India's commercial sector, its share of total resource flows climbing to a three-year high, as per RBI's April bulletin.

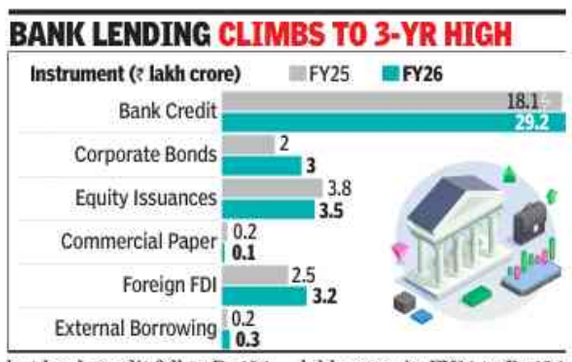
The shift is stark. Total resource flows reached Rs 44.7 lakh crore in FY26, while non-food bank credit surged to Rs 29.2 lakh crore, lifting its share to 65.4%. A year earlier the system looked more balanced. Now it leans decisively towards banks.

Market instruments tell a subtler story. Equity issuance lost ground, its share slipping from 10.8% in FY25 to 7.7% in FY26. Bonds moved the other way, rising from 5.6% to 6.8%, suggesting firms preferred longer-term debt even as they returned to banks. The past three years show how quickly the mix can change. In FY24, total flows were Rs 35.6 lakh crore and bank credit was about Rs 23 lakh crore, a share of 64.5%. In FY25, flows were similar at Rs 35.2 lakh crore, but bank credit fell to Rs 18.1 lakh crore, dragging its share down to 51.4%. FY26 reversed that dip, with the share jumping by around 14 percentage points to 65.4%.

Non-bank finance has been reshaped. Foreign capital has become more important, rising from 6.8% of total flows in FY24, or Rs 2.4 lakh crore, to 11% in FY26, or Rs 4.9 lakh crore. Domestic non-bank sources lost ground, their share falling from 28.7% to 23.6% over the same period. The rebound in bank credit is especially pronounced. It fell from about Rs 23 lakh crore in FY24 to Rs 18.1 lakh crore in FY25, then expanded by 61.5% in FY26. That figure captures fresh disbursements rather than changes in outstanding stock. Thanks to a year-end surge, by end-March 2026, outstanding bank credit stood at Rs 219 lakh crore, up 16% year-on-year.

Elsewhere the signals diverge. Corporate bond issuance rose 52.4% in FY26 to Rs 3 lakh crore from nearly Rs 2 lakh crore. Commercial paper shrank by 57.8%, pointing to weaker appetite for short-term funding.

BANK LENDING CLIMBS TO 3-YR HIGH



Amazon adds $300mn to boost India ops, Q-comm

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Amazon is betting a fresh $300 million (over Rs 2,800 crore) on India to widen its operations network and boost its quick commerce business, a space where the firm has been a late entrant, lagging in market share. The Seattle-based e-commerce company has set a target of more than doubling the footprint of its quick commerce arm Amazon Now in the three cities it currently delivers besides launching the service in newer cities. A spokesperson declined to share additional details. For context–Amazon Now records some 3.5 lakh orders per day while leading rival Blinkit delivers more than 25 lakh orders in a day and Swiggy Instamart around 11-12 lakh orders a day, said Satish Meena, founder at market research firm Datum Intelligence.

Indian consumers have taken to the habit of ordering a host of grocery and non-grocery items through instant delivery platforms driven by the convenience of getting them at their doorstep in minutes. With faster deliveries becoming the new retail norm now, Amazon will also upgrade its pan-India operations network covering fulfilment centres, sortation centres and delivery stations to improve delivery speed (for marketplace business) for customers in tier-2 and 3 cities, the company said. "These investments will enable Amazon to serve customers across a wide range of delivery speeds—from minutes to hours to days, based on their needs," Amazon said in a statement on Thursday. The investments are part of Amazon's stated target of deploying more than $35 billion in India by 2030 to drive AI-driven digitisation, export growth and job creation. The company said it will invest in technology including AI and machine learning to make its operations network safer and more efficient.

> Investments are part of Amazon's target of more than $35bn deployment in India by 2030 towards AI-led digitisation, export growth and job creation

In letter to PM, Bernstein lists eight areas to up eco growth

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Bernstein, one of the leading foreign brokerages operating in India, has written an open letter to PM Narendra Modi mentioning eight areas govt should focus on for the Indian economy to grow.

Touching upon areas from agriculture to AI, Bernstein analysts Venugopal Garre and Nikhil Arela said these eight areas are the "critical areas of focus and possible solutions to recharge the India story and move it away from a low-end labour arbitrage model to a higher productive track." The Berstein letter pointed out that although there is genuine entrepreneurial depth among Indian companies and a large number believes in graduating "from-India" cases to "for-the-world", one uncomfortable fault line is employment.

The analysts pointed out that for two decades, India's services engine was powered by a large, reasonably priced, English-speaking talent pool working in IT services, GCCs and BPOs. "Gen AI now challenges that template," they said. "Given the emerging situation, innovation is a hard precondition, and not just a desirable rhetoric," they added.

"India does not lack capital, talent, or ambition. What it requires now is a sharper willingness to take difficult decisions early, rather than defer them," said Garre and Arela in their letter.

Govt assesses potential risks from AI models

FM, Vaishnaw Meet Banks, Regulators

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Govt has started to assess potential risks from advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models, such as Anthropic's Mythos, with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw chairing a high-level meeting on Thursday with banks and regulators to review emerging threats from AI models.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) and CEOs of various commercial banks. Officials discussed the possibility of misuse of such AI tools to exploit software vulnerabilities and financial systems.

Sitharaman said the nature of the threat from new AI models is "unprecedented" and requires greater preparedness and coordination across financial institutions. The Indian Banks' Association was advised to create a coordinated response mechanism for AI-related threats.

She also recommended banks to strengthen cybersecurity systems, engage specialised agencies and ensure real-time sharing of threat intelligence among themselves. Banks were also directed to report any cyber incidents immediately to authorities, such as CERT-In.

According to Anthropic, its Claude Mythos model, being tested and only available to companies like Amazon Web Services, Apple, Microsoft and Google and others , can independently identify and exploit software weaknesses, including previously unknown vulnerabilities in operating systems and web browsers, raising concerns over potential misuse.

Department of Financial Services secretary M Nagaraju said the technology presents both risks and opportunities. "Mythos is a threat and opportunity for the fintech ecosystem to experiment," he said.

Call For Preparedness

Nature of threat from new AI models is "unprecedented" and requires greater preparedness and coordination across financial institutions, says finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, recommending banks to strengthen cybersecurity systems, engage specialised agencies and ensure real-time sharing of threat intelligence

'AI downloads in India up 69% in Jan-March'

New Delhi: India's mobile app market crossed a monetisation milestone in the first quarter of 2026, with total revenue surpassing $300 million (around Rs 2,500 crore), marking a 33% year-on-year increase, according to a Sensor Tower report. In Q1 2025, total revenue was roughly $225 million.

Generative AI and short drama apps emerged as key demand drivers. AI-led apps saw a 69% year-on-year rise in downloads, while short drama platforms surged 403%. ChatGPT crossed 300 million cumulative downloads in India and ranked among the top three apps by revenue, signalling rising willingness among users to pay for AI-driven services. Video entertainment continued to dominate monetisation, accounting for five of the top 10 apps by revenue. In gaming, established titles such as Free Fire retained top revenue positions, supported by live operations and in-game events. Puzzle titles including Candy Crush Saga, Gardenscapes and Royal Match contributed to a 78% year-on-year increase in puzzle game revenue, making it the second-largest genre after shooter games. TNN

TIMES GLOBAL

THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

PERPLEXITY IS THE BEGINNING OF KNOWLEDGE — KHALIL GIBRAN

MAGGIE GYLLENHAAL NAMED VENICE FILM FESTIVAL JURY PREZ: 'I'LL NOT BE STANDING IN JUDGMENT, BUT IN CURIOSITY & ADMIRATION'

KANYE WEST'S UPCOMING GIG IN ITALY PROMPTS UPROAR AFTER CANCELLATIONS IN UK, FRANCE, SWITZERLAND AND POLAND

Iran takes seized ships to port, nations check on seafarers' safety

London/Athens: Two container ships seized by Iran near the Strait of Hormuz with about 40 crew aboard have been taken toward the port of Bandar Abbas, sources said on Thursday, Tehran having vowed to retaliate after US forces seized an Iranian vessel three days earlier.

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps seized the ships on Wednesday, one operated by MSC, the world's biggest container shipping group, and according to three sources, the other chartered by the firm. "Some 20 Iranians armed to the teeth stormed the ship. Sailors are under Iranians' control, their movements on the ship are limited, but the Iranians are treating them well," a kin of one of the seafarers said.

AFP

A screen grab released by IRGC on Thursday shows its naval forces allegedly boarding a ship trying to cross the Strait of Hormuz

"The ship is anchored nine nautical miles from the Iranian coast. Negotiations between MSC and Iran are ongoing, our sailors are fine," Montenegro's minister of maritime affairs, Filip Radulovic, told state broadcaster RTCG. Four sailors on the MSC Francesca including its captain are from Montenegro, he said. Two Croatians are also aboard, Croatia's foreign ministry confirmed. Full details on the crew of the Panama-flagged ship have not been made available.

The Liberia-flagged Epaminondas has a crew of 21 members made up of Ukrainians and Filipinos, according to the Greek coast guard. It had been bound for India. Both crews were reported safe, but authorities in their home countries said they were seeking information about the seafarers and working on their release. There has been no information about the cargo the ships were carrying. Maritime sources said shipping data said that both ships were near Bandar Abbas. REUTERS

Make a deal or die: Trump's Iran playbook takes dark turn

US Prez Orders To Shoot And Kill Iranian Boats Laying Mines In Hormuz

Chidanand Rajghatta | TNN

Washington: US President Donald Trump on Wednesday escalated his rhetoric against Iran to a new pitch, appearing to endorse the idea of eliminating Iranian leaders who oppose a deal — two weeks after he threatened to annihilate a civilisation — even as he doubled down on claims of US military dominance over the Strait of Hormuz.

In a series of posts that blended dark threats, bravado, and exhortation, Trump portrayed Iran as internally fractured and militarily weakened, while signalling a readiness to intensify US action if Tehran does not come to the negotiating table. He also reposted a clip from a commentator that recommended killing Iranian leaders who oppose the deal and destroying Kharg island, from where Iran exports 90% of its energy.

"Iran is having a very hard time figuring out who their leader is! They just don't know!" he wrote, describing "CRAZY" infighting between "Hardliners," whom he said were "losing BADLY on the battlefield," and "Moderates," whom he dismissed as "not very moderate at all (but gaining respect!)."

The US president went on to assert sweeping American control over the Strait of Hormuz, declaring that "no ship can enter or leave without the approval of the United States Navy" and that the vital maritime artery was "sealed up tight" until Iran makes a deal. The claim, while reflecting the presence of formidable US naval forces in the region, has been met with scepticism among analysts who note that the waterway remains contested and that Iran retains the capacity to disrupt shipping through asymmetric tactics.

In a separate post, Trump sharpened his military directive, saying he had ordered the US Navy to "shoot and kill any boat, small boats though they may be," if they are found laying mines in the strait. "There is to be no hesitation," he wrote, adding that US mine-sweeping operations were underway and would be expanded to "a tripled up level". The language marks one of the most explicit public authorisations of lethal force by the president in the current stand-off, effectively lowering the threshold for direct confrontation at sea.

The rhetoric comes against the backdrop of a volatile and fast-evolving confrontation that has oscillated between threats of large-scale military action and tentative diplomatic outreach. Trump's latest comments about potentially targeting Iranian leaders who oppose a deal — without naming individuals — have further raised the stakes, prompting concerns about escalation even as Washington maintains that it is open to negotiations.

A growing number of domestic critics, including some of his former MAGA acolytes, are saying Trump has gone batty and senile and needs to be removed by invoking the 25th Amendment. Last week, media reports in the Wall Street Journal, among other outlets, caused a stir in Washington with reports that suggested senior Pentagon commanders and administration officials were keeping the president out of the loop on the Iran developments because of his volatile demands and responses.

Officials in Tehran have so far responded with a mix of defiance and derision to Trump provocations, rejecting what they describe as coercive diplomacy. Iranian state-linked voices have pushed back against the narrative of internal disarray, instead framing the US posture as erratic and driven by political considerations. On social media, pro-govt commentators have mocked Trump's claims of total control over the strait, pointing to recent incidents involving the harassment and seizure of vessels as evidence that Iran retains operational leverage in the narrow waterway.

Independent analysts in Washington and the Gulf region caution that while the US enjoys overwhelming conventional military superiority, the dynamics of the Strait of Hormuz favour neither side decisively. Iran's use of small boats, mines, and coastal missile systems has long been viewed as a potent asymmetric counter to US naval power, raising the risk that even limited engagements could spiral into broader conflict.

Trump's comments also underscore the increasingly personalised nature of the standoff. By framing the issue in terms of Iranian leadership divisions and suggesting that certain figures could be "eliminated", the president appears to be targeting not just policies but individuals — a move that could further complicate diplomatic channels. Experts note that such rhetoric risks hardening positions within Iran, empowering hardliners who argue that engagement with Washington is futile.

At the same time, the administration continues to signal that a negotiated settlement remains possible. Backchannel contacts, including those reportedly facilitated by Pakistan, have not been formally abandoned, and there remains speculation about whether senior US officials, possibly including vice-president JD Vance, could travel to the region for talks if conditions align.

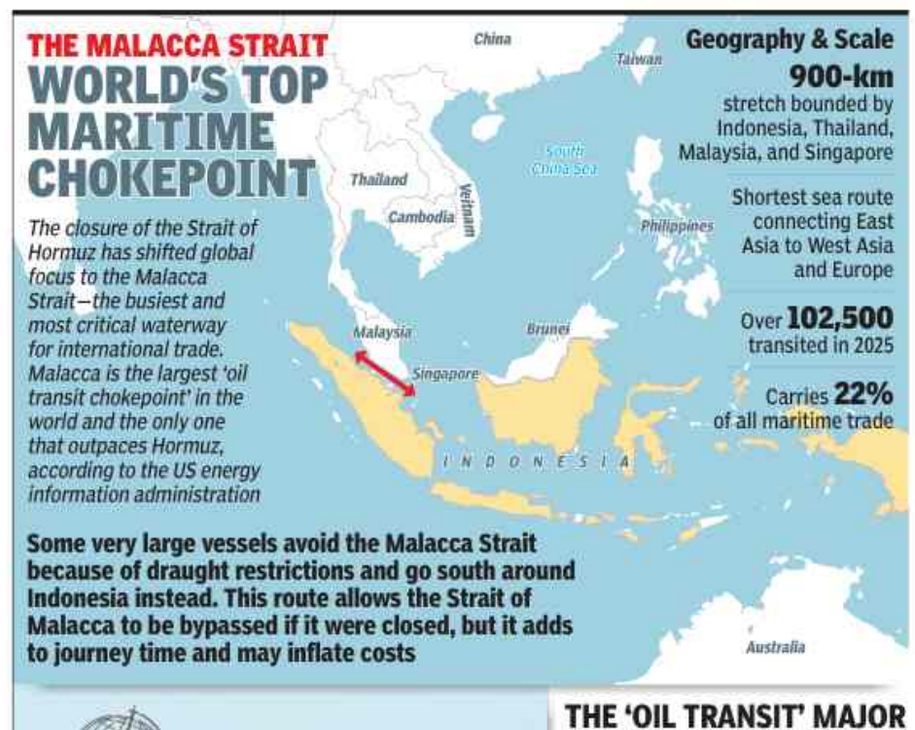
Yet the gap between rhetoric and diplomacy appears wider than ever. President Trump's alternating signals — threatening force while inviting talks — have become a defining feature of the crisis, leaving allies uncertain and adversaries cautious but unyielding. The president has insisted that maximum pressure will ultimately bring Iran to heel, but critics argue that the approach has instead produced a cycle of escalation and pause, without a clear pathway to resolution.

AFP

Mourners hold the portraits of Lebanese journalist Amal Khalil, killed in an airstrike in the country's south, during her funeral procession in Sidon on Thursday. Lebanon accused Israel of committing a war crime with Khalil's killing. The Israeli army said it is reviewing the incident

No internal rift, we're together: Iran speaker

Iran's parliament speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Thursday dismissed claims of internal divisions within the country, responding to remarks attributed to US President Donald Trump. In a post shared on X, Ghalibaf asserted that there is no divide between political factions in Iran, emphasising national unity and allegiance to the country's leadership. "In Iran, there are no radicals or moderates; we are all 'Iranian' and 'revolutionary,'" he stated in a post on X, adding that the nation stands united in the face of external pressures. ANI


THE MALACCA STRAIT
WORLD'S TOP MARITIME CHOKEPOINT
The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has shifted global focus to the Malacca Strait—the busiest and most critical waterway for international trade. Malacca is the largest 'oil transit chokepoint' in the world and the only one that outpaces Hormuz, according to the US energy information administration
Geography & Scale
900-km stretch bounded by Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Singapore
Shortest sea route connecting East Asia to West Asia and Europe
Over 102,500 transited in 2025
Carries 22% of all maritime trade
China
Taiwan
South China Sea
Thailand
Vietnam
Cambodia
Philippines
Malaysia
Brunei
Singapore
INDONESIA
Australia
Some very large vessels avoid the Malacca Strait because of draught restrictions and go south around Indonesia instead. This route allows the Strait of Malacca to be bypassed if it were closed, but it adds to journey time and may inflate costs
A file photo of a container ship entering the Malacca Strait
THE 'OIL TRANSIT' MAJOR
Volume
23.2 million barrels per day (bpd) (2025 data)—now surpassing the Strait of Hormuz (20.9 million bpd)
Accounts for 29% of total global maritime oil flows
Roughly 75% of China's seaborne crude oil imports pass through this strait
RISKS & VULNERABILITIES
Narrows to just 2.7 km wide at the Phillips Channel, increasing collision and spill risks
Shallow sections (25-27m) challenge massive tankers
A historic hotspot for piracy (104 attacks in 2024) and illegal ship-to-ship oil transfers used to obscure cargo origins
High anxiety over how a conflict in the South China Sea or Taiwan Strait could paralyse the waterway
REGIONAL STANCE
Despite recent discussions on monetising the Strait, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia agree to keep it toll-free
The bordering nations conduct coordinated patrols to ensure the waterway remains open and stable
Source: Reuters

In the past, Trump had peddled 'birther' conspiracy against Obama

▸Continued from P 1

The post, shared on Trump's Truth Social platform, was not a passing endorsement or a casual "like". It was a wholesale amplification of Savage's commentary, effectively elevating the rhetoric into the mainstream political discourse of a sitting president. By choosing to repost the entire commentary without caveat or distancing language, Trump was seen as endorsing not just the policy critique — but the rhetoric itself.

The repost comes even as the US Supreme Court weighs the legality of Trump's executive order seeking to curtail birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment. It also coincides with slipping approval ratings and a contentious midterm election cycle, suggesting that immigration — and the cultural anxieties surrounding it — remains central to Trump's political playbook.

His record is littered with controversial — and often explicitly racist — remarks stretching back years. During his first presidency, he reportedly referred to African nations, along with Haiti, as "s***hole countries" in a White House meeting, while expressing a preference for immigrants from Nordic countries.

Earlier, Trump took out newspaper ads in 1989 calling for the death penalty for the Central Park Five case — five Black and Latino teens later exonerated after spending years in prison. Even after their innocence was established, Trump continued to question their exoneration. Trump's political career itself began with the so-called "birther" conspiracy targeting Barack Obama, falsely claiming the first Black US president was not born in the US. Trump also called for a "total and complete shutdown" of Muslim immigration, described Mexican immigrants as "rapists", and repeatedly warned of an "invasion" from the southern border.

Hackers steal $2.5m from Lankan finance ministry

Colombo: Cyber criminals hacked into the Sri Lankan finance ministry's computer system and siphoned off $2.5 million, the government said Thursday, the most amount of cash ever stolen by hackers from a state institution in the debt-saddled country.

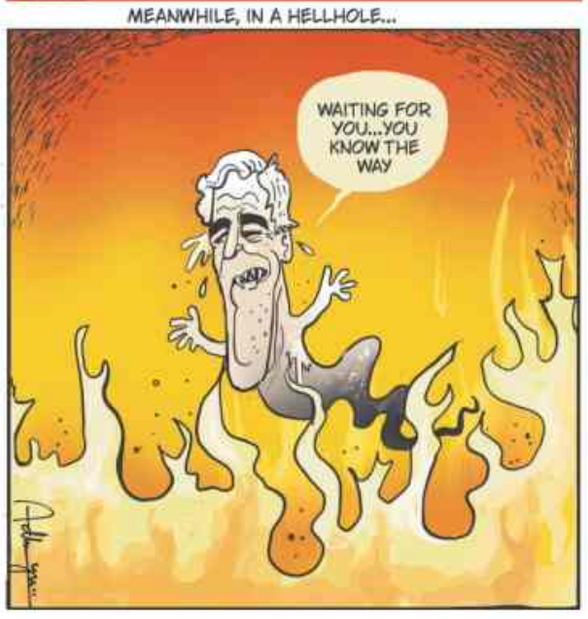
The cyberattack is a major blow to Sri Lanka, which is recovering from a crippling economic crisis in 2022 after Colombo defaulted on its $46 billion external debt. The money was destined as debt repayment to Australia, finance ministry secretary Harshana Suriyapperuma told reporters in the capital. Four senior officers at the public debt management office (PDMO) were suspended after the breach, he said.

"Criminal investigators are looking into this and we are not in a position to give further details," Suriyapperuma said.

Sri Lanka established the PDMO earlier this year in line with an IMF-backed $2.9 billion bailout loan from early 2023, following the island's economic meltdown.

Australia's high commissioner in Sri Lanka, Matthew Duckworth, said Canberra was aware of "irregularities" in payments owed to it. "Sri Lankan authorities are investigating the matter and are coordinating with Australian officials, who are assisting the investigation," Duckworth said on X. AFP

TOI LINE OF NO CONTROL — SANDEEP ADHWARYU



Weeks after US army chief was asked to leave, navy secy resigns

Washington: US navy secretary **John Phelan** is leaving his job, the Pentagon abruptly announced Wednesday, the first head of a military service to depart during President Donald Trump's second term but just the latest top defence leader to step down or be ousted.

No reason was given for the unexpected departure of the navy's top civilian official, coming as the sea service has imposed a blockade of Iranian ports and is targeting ships linked to Tehran around the world during a tenuous ceasefire in the war. Another Trump loyalist is taking over as acting head of the navy: under secretary Hung Cao, a navy combat veteran who ran unsuccessful campaigns for the US Senate and House in Virginia.

Phelan's departure is the latest in a series of shake-ups of top leadership at the Pentagon, coming just weeks after defence secretary Pete Hegseth fired the army's top uniformed officer, General Randy George.

Showing how sudden the latest move was, Phelan had addressed a large crowd of sailors and industry professionals on Tuesday at the Navy's annual conference in Washington and spoke with reporters about his agenda. He also hosted the leaders of the House Armed Services Committee to discuss the Navy's budget request and efforts to build more ships, according to a social media post from his office.

Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said that Phelan was "departing the administration, effective immediately." Phelan had not served in the military or had a civilian leadership role in the service before he was nominated for secretary in 2024. He was seen as an outsider. Phelan was a major donor to Trump's campaign and had founded investment firm Rugger Management LLC. AP

TOP MILITARY SACKINGS IN TRUMP 2.0

Randy George, US army chief of staff | On April 2, def secy Hegseth fires him without citing a reason. The same day, Gen David Hodne, leading army's transformation and training command, and Major Gen William Green, head of army's chaplain corps, also axed

Lt Gen Jeffrey Kruse | Hegseth sacks head of Pentagon's intelligence agency on Aug 22, 2025. Chief of navy reserve and commander of the naval special warfare command also booted. No reason given

Gen Timothy Haugh | Trump fires director of NSA on April 3, 2025. No reason given

C Q Brown, chairman of joint chiefs of staff | Trump axes air force general on Feb 21, 2025, in a military shake-up. Admiral Lisa Franchetti, first woman to lead a military service as chief of naval operations, also booted

Admiral Linda Fagan | US coast guard commandant and first female uniformed leader of a branch of the US armed forces is sacked on Jan 21, 2025, the first full day of Trump's second term. One of the reasons was Fagan's excessive focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, says an official

Iran defies US blockade to claim toll

Tehran: Iran has banked the first proceeds from the tolls it is exacting on shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, a senior official said on Thursday. Iran has vowed that it will keep the strait closed to all but a trickle of approved vessels for as long as the US blockades its ports.

"A complete ceasefire only has meaning if it is not violated through a naval blockade," said Iran's parliamentary speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf. "Reopening the Strait of Hormuz is not possible amid a blatant violation of the ceasefire." Ghalibaf's deputy, Hamidrez Hajibabei said Iran has received its first revenue from tolls it is imposing on ships seeking to cross Hormuz. Analysts said Tehran, in particular its hardline leaders associated with the IRGC, believes that Iran's blockade gives it sufficient economic leverage to force Washington to back down on its main demands in eventual peace talks. AFP

Report: 10 killed in mining project in Balochistan

Quetta: A group of militants killed at least 10 people at a copper and gold mining project in Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan province, officials said on Thursday, the latest violence in a region facing an armed separatist movement. About 40 militants stormed the mining project site of Pakistani company National Resources Private Limited (NRL) in Chagai district on Wednesday. "The attack left seven workers and three security personnel dead," a local administration official told AFP.

The company acknowledged the attack late Wednesday, saying security forces responded "promptly and have secured the area". No group claimed responsibility, but local ethnic separatist groups have intensified their attacks in the region in recent years, including on mining projects. AFP

WB shareholders okay Paramount's $81bn takeover

New York: An $81 billion Warner-Paramount mega merger has received shareholders' stamp of approval, propelling a deal that could vastly reshape Hollywood and the wider media landscape closer to the finish line.

According to a preliminary vote count on Thursday, the overwhelming majority of Warner Bros. Discovery shareholders voted in support of selling the entire business to Paramount for $31 a share, the company said.

Paramount wants to buy all of Warner. But it's not a done deal quite yet. The acquisition still faces regulatory reviews. Warner has said it expects to close sometime in the third fiscal quarter. Meanwhile, Warner shareholders rejected a separate measure on Thursday that outlined post-merger payments for company executives. AP

Trump reclassifies state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug

Washington: President Donald Trump's acting attorney general on Thursday signed an order reclassifying state-licensed medical marijuana as a less-dangerous drug, a major policy shift long sought by advocates who said cannabis should never have been treated like heroin by the federal govt.

The order signed by Todd Blanche does not legalise marijuana for medical or recreational use under federal law. But it does change the way it's regulated, shifting licensed medical marijuana from Schedule I — reserved for drugs without medical use and with high potential for abuse — to the less strictly regulated Schedule III. It also gives licensed medical marijuana operators a major tax break and eases some barriers to researching cannabis.

The Trump administration also said it was jump-starting the process for reclassifying marijuana more broadly, setting a hearing to begin in June.

Trump told his administration in Dec to work as quickly as possible to reclassify marijuana. On Saturday, as the president signed an unrelated executive order about psychedelics, he seemed to express frustration that it was taking so long.

The order represents a major policy shift for the US govt, which has continued its longstanding marijuana prohibition even as nearly all the states have approved cannabis use in some form

Blanche said Thursday that the department of justice was "delivering on President Trump's promise" to expand Americans' access to medical treatment options. "This rescheduling action allows for research on the safety and efficacy of this substance, ultimately providing patients with better care and doctors with more reliable information," he said.

Blanche's action largely legitimises medical marijuana programmes in the 40 states that have adopted them. It sets up an expedited system for state-licensed medical marijuana producers and distributors to register with the US drug enforcement administration.

It makes clear that cannabis researchers won't be penalised for obtaining state-licensed marijuana or marijuana-derived products for use in their work, and it grants state-licensed medical marijuana firms a windfall by allowing them, for the first time, to deduct business expenses on their federal taxes.

The order represents a major policy shift for the US govt, which has continued its longstanding marijuana prohibition — dating to the Marihuana Tax Act of 1937 — even as nearly all the states have approved cannabis use in some form. Two dozen states plus Washington, DC, have authorised adult recreational use of marijuana, 40 have medical marijuana systems, and eight others allow low-THC cannabis or CBD oil for medical use. Only Idaho and Kansas ban marijuana.

The president of American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp, Michael Bronstein, called it "the most significant advancement in cannabis policy in 50 years." "This recognises what Americans have long known, cannabis is medicine," he said. BLOOMBERG

EU approves $106bn loan package to help Ukraine

Brussels: The European Union (EU) on Thursday approved a €90 billion ($106-billion) loan package to help Ukraine meet its economic and military needs for two years after oil began flowing through a key pipeline to Hungary and Slovakia, ending months of political deadlock.

The EU also okayed a new draft of sanctions against Russia over Ukraine war. The measures were prepared early this year and had been set to be announced in Feb to mark the fourth anniversary of the conflict, but Hungary and Slovakia opposed the move.

Hungary and Slovakia have been locked in a feud with Ukraine since Russian oil deliveries to the two EU countries were halted in Jan after a pipeline was damaged. Ukrainian officials blamed the damage on Russian drone attacks. Both countries confirmed Thursday that deliveries have resumed. Hungary angered its EU partners by reneging on a Dec deal to provide the funds. The loans are expected to be available in coming weeks and months.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked his European partners for their support. "We will work to make sure the funds are delivered as soon as possible," Zelensky said. AP

45 YEARS PRIDE OF INDIA

TIMES SPORT
THE TIMES OF INDIA, BENGALURU | FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2026

ONIDA OWNER'S PRIDE

ONIDA
KING OF POWERFUL COOLING
SLEEP BETTER. LIVE BETTER.

SANJU TON SEALS IT FOR CSK

Opener's 101* Headlines Big 103-Run Win Over Mumbai

Rajesh.Pansare
@timesofindia.com

Mumbai: The Mumbai Indians versus Chennai Super Kings contest was built up as a clash of titans. After all, the two teams have served up several classics over 18 seasons of the IPL. On Thursday night, however, CSK reduced the spectacle to a mismatch, bowling MI out for 104 to register a commanding 103-run win at the Wankhede Stadium.

CSK's dominance was built on the back of Sanju Samson's second century of the season, followed by a ruthless bowling effort led by left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein, who finished with career-best IPL figures of 4 for 17. The result pushed CSK up to fifth on the points table with six points, while MI slipped to eighth with four.

Samson, meanwhile, continued his growing romance with the Wankhede. The last time he played at the venue was during the T20 World Cup semifinal against England in March, when he cracked a 42-ball 89 to top-score for India. On Thursday, he was once again CSK's mainstay, steering them to 207 for 6 with a sublime unbeaten 101.

The knock was significant because MI struck at regular intervals on a largely true surface, preventing CSK from running away with the contest. Samson's 54-ball hundred, embellished with 10 fours and six sixes, came on the same pitch used for that World Cup semifinal, underlining his comfort in familiar conditions.

Youngsters Allah Ghazanfar (2/25) and Ashwani Kumar (2/37) kept MI competitive through the middle overs. Every time CSK threatened to accelerate, the duo provided breakthroughs to haul the scoring rate back.

Unfazed, Samson held one end together. He exploded early, taking 18 off the 19 runs conceded by Hardik Pandya in the fourth over, then pulled a Jasprit Bumrah slower ball for six in the next. Elegance and audacity were the bedrock of his innings, and the cheeky scoop for four off Bumrah late in the slog overs only highlighted it.

Samson finished with a flourish, dismantling young pacer Krish Bhagat for 15 in the 16th over before hammering 16 off the final over to bring up his hundred and propel CSK past 200.

Chasing, MI, unravelled almost immediately on a pitch that got slower. Hosein found turn with the new ball to dismiss Danish Malewar and Naman Dhir for ducks, evoking memories of old Chepauk turners more than Wankhede. A grieving Mukesh Choudhary, who lost his mother on Tuesday, then bowled four dots in a row and had Quinton de Kock chopping on, leaving MI 11 for 3.

Suryakumar Yadav (35) and Tilak Varma (37) added 73 for the fourth wicket, but Hosein's return broke the stand and ended all hopes of a fightback.

Noor Ahmad's twin strikes removed Hardik Pandya and Sherfane Rutherford, before Hosein signed off by dismissing Suryakumar to seal a comprehensive CSK win.

KK Choudhary

2 Sanju Samson's 101 is his second century in seven innings for CSK in IPL-2026, the other being 115* vs DC in Chennai on April 11. —Rajesh Kumar

SOLID KNOCK: CSK's Sanju Samson drives one to the fence against MI on Thursday

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5 Sanju Samson has five IPL hundreds, one each against Rising Pune Supergiant, Sunrisers, Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals and Mumbai Indians.

2 Samson is the second CSK batter to hit two tons in one season, the first being Shane Watson in 2018.

1 Samson is the first CSK batter to post a hundred vs MI in the IPL.

4/17 Akeal Hosein has come up with his best performance in the IPL.

1 Hosein's figures are the best by a CSK spinner vs MI in the IPL.

SCOREBOARD

CSK: S Samson not out 101, R Gaikwad c Varma b Ghazanfar 22, S Khan b Santner 14, S Dube b Ghazanfar 5, D Brevis c Bumrah b Ashwani 21, K Sharma c Santner b Bumrah 18, J Overton c Dhir b Ashwani 15, A Hosein not out 2; **Extras (lb1, w5, nb3): 9; Total (6 wkts, 20 ovrs): 207; FoW:** 1-32, 2-72, 3-91, 4-122, 5-165, 6-181; **Bowling:** Bumrah 4-0-31-1, Pandya 2-0-38-0, Ghazanfar 4-0-25-2, Santner 4-0-44-1, Ashwani 4-0-37-2, Bhagat 2-0-31-0.
MI: Q de Kock b Choudhary 7, D Malewar c Samson b Hosein 0, N Dhir b Hosein 0, S Yadav c Sarfaraz b Hosein 36, T Varma b Hosein 37, H Pandya c Choudhary b Noor 1, S Rutherford c Kamboj b Noor 0, S Thakur c Brevis b Kamboj 6, K Bhagat c Gurjapneet b Overton 7, A Kumar not out 1, J Bumrah c Samson b Gurjapneet 2; **Extras (lb1, w6): 7; Total (19 ovrs): 104; FoW:** 1-7, 2-7, 3-11, 4-84, 5-85, 6-85, 7-87, 8-100, 9-100, 10-104; **Bowling:** Hosein 4-1-17-4, Choudhary 4-0-31-1, Kamboj 3-0-10-1, Noor 4-0-24-2, Overton 2-0-14-1, Gurjapneet 2-0-7-1.
Result: CSK won by 103 runs

HOW THEY STAND

TEAM	M	W	L	NR	NRR	P
PBKS	6	5	0	1	1.420	11
RR	7	5	2	0	0.790	10
RCB	6	4	2	0	1.171	8
SRH	7	4	3	0	0.820	8
CSK	7	3	4	0	0.118	6
DC	6	3	3	0	-0.130	6
GT	6	3	3	0	-0.821	6
MI	7	2	5	0	-0.736	4
LSG	7	2	5	0	-1.277	4
KKR	7	1	5	1	-0.879	3

'Life has not changed after dream debut'

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Hyderabad: Praful Hinge, the 24-year-old Sunrisers Hyderabad pacer, became an overnight sensation after his performance against Rajasthan Royals. He set the tone with a wicket off his second ball — that of teen wonder Vaibhav Sooryavanshi — and scalped two more in the over.

Despite the dream debut, he says life remains the same. "Yes, I planned to bowl a bouncer to dismiss Sooryavanshi. I played with him in the U-23 match once and got his wicket with a short ball. I tried it again and it worked. I didn't know that I would take four wickets in my very first match. I came to know about the record (three wickets in first over) only after the match. However, I am not feeling my life has changed a lot after that. I am trying to stay away from social media and focus on training," Hinge said.

He also credited the team management for believing in him. "I learnt a lot from training with senior players in the team. We keep talking to them and they teach us a lot. The support from our coach and captain was clear. T20 is a batters' game. As a bowler, whatever we do, do it with heart and enjoy the moment. That is the only advice from coach and captain," he added.

Hinge idolises Pat Cummins and was a total fanboy when he first met him at the SRH camp. "When I first met him, I told him how big a fan I was. He was very welcoming. I told him that I used to watch his bowling videos and train. He told me that he will work with him and help with bowling. That was very motivating," he revealed. Hinge also said that he was motivated by his father Prakash — a former employee of the Maharashtra electricity department — and sister, a chartered accountant. "I wanted to do something that made my family happy. When I started I had no idea what domestic cricket was. I first played with a leather ball at the age of 13.

"Since then, playing for the country was my only dream. Once I got into a two-month summer camp, I began understanding the process. I played all the age groups and made my debut for the state team just last year," he added.

He also credited Glenn McGrath and Varun Aaron for his progress. "When I was with the MRF Pace Foundation, McGrath helped me with my action. But Aaron helped me a lot too. As a fast bowler, he knows what it takes to be successful and he guided me."

(Hinge spoke on JioStar Press Room after his IPL debut)

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SNAP SHOTS

B'desh seal series win

Najmul Hossain Shanto (105) hit a timely ton and Mustafizur Rahman (5-43) claimed five wickets as Bangladesh secured a 55-run victory over New Zealand in the third ODI in Chattogram on Thursday to complete a 2-1 series triumph. **Brief scores: Bangladesh: 265/8 in 50 overs** (Najmul Hossain Shanto 105, Litton Das 76; Will O'Rourke 3-32, Ben Lister 2-62, Jayden Lennox 2-50) **bt New Zealand: 210 all out in 44.5 overs** (Nick Kelly 59, Dean Foxcroft 75; Mustafizur Rahman 5-43).

Wolvaardt powers SA to victory: India scored their highest-ever total against South Africa but still suffered a nine-wicket loss to the home team with skipper Laura Wolvaardt leading the way with a ton in the third women's T20I against South Africa in Johannesburg on Wednesday. South Africa thus took an unassailable 3-0 lead to clinch the five-match series. Put in to bat, India made 192/4 with captain Harmanpreet Kaur and opener Shafali Verma scoring 66 and 64 respectively. But, South Africa captain Wolvaardt slammed 115 off just 53 balls while her opening partner Sune Luus struck an unbeaten 64 off 42 deliveries to chase down the target of 193 with 21 balls to spare. **Brief scores: India: 192/4 in 20 overs** (Shafali Verma 64, Harmanpreet Kaur 66; Nonkululeko Mlaba 2-31) **lost to South Africa: 193/1 in 16.3 overs** (Laura Wolvaardt 115, Sune Luus 64 n.o).

Prachi wins gold: India's Prachi Gaikwad struck gold in the women's 50m rifle 3-positions, while Naraen Pranav chipped in with a bronze in the men's 10m air rifle, as the country continued to dominate the medal standings at the ISSF Junior World Cup (Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun) in Cairo on Thursday. Prachi fired 354.6 in the fina. Naraen, meanwhile, secured the bronze in his event with a final score of 229.5.

Maini clocks 193 laps in Alpine F1 test: Indian racer Kush Maini has clocked an impressive 193 laps while completing his first official Formula 1 test of the season with BWT Alpine F1 Team at the Circuit Zandvoort in a two-day, closed-door session.

Aadhithiya, Gandhrav in final: SM Aadhithiya has set up a final date with Gandharv G in the AITA tennis tournament in Bengaluru on Thursday. Aadhithiya beat Deepak A 6-1, 3-0 after Deepak retired. Gandharv defeated Vishal Vasudev 6-0, 4-6, 6-4. Meanwhile, Hridayeshi reached the women's final with a 6-3, 6-0 win against Saiyette Varadkar. She will meet Shreeniti Chowdhury, who scored a 6-3, 6-0 win over Sonicka Jagdeesh.

Results: Men: SM Aadhithiya bt Deepak 6-1, 3-0 (retd); Gandhrav G bt Vishal Vasudev 6-0, 4-6, 6-4. **Women:** Hridayeshi bt Saiyette Varadkar 6-3, 6-0; Shreeniti Chowdhury bt Sonicka Jagdeesh 6-3, 6-0.

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'Invest in coaches, protect sport'

High Jump Great Vlasic Backs Athlete-First Policies, Clean Sport & Early Talent Identification In India

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Bengaluru: High jump legend Blanka Vlasic, former World champion and two-time Olympic medallist from Croatia, said every youngster should be involved in sport so that a few of them can be spotted by trained eyes and groomed to become champions. Here as international event ambassador for the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, Vlasic also said sports bodies need to be aware that the needs of the athletes comes first.

Vlasic, who cleared the magical two-metre mark over 165 times and won 14 Diamond League titles, said India should keep investing in coaches. "It's very important to always keep investing in coaches. It's important because there are not enough good coaches. The team around the athlete needs to be on a high level, so the athlete can produce her best results. Also, you need to be able to motivate those kids to try out, so you can search out their talents and guide them in the right way from an early age," Vlasic told TOI.

CHAMPION SPEAKS

When pointed out India led a dubious list of athletes taking banned drugs, Vlasic said: "If you achieve success with the shortcuts, then your success will probably be just one spark and that's it. Do you remember that one champion who won one time, or do you remember a champion who was 10 years present with his or her ups and downs?

"Beyond medals, beyond a single achievement in track and field, especially, it's very important that you have a level of results and that you can maintain that for a prolonged period of time. That is what is valued. If you're among the top 10 in the world for more than 10 years, you could say that you had a great career in sports and people should think about that. " One success doesn't make you successful if it doesn't last," said the 2010 Women's Track and Field Athlete of the Year.

Looking back at her glittering career, in which she won every medal up except an Olympic gold, Vlasic now regrets missing that top podium. "So many times I get asked this, and my answer used to be that I would always take the world record because there are so many Olympic gold medalists. The world record is only one. Now, I feel that I regret never having won an Olympic gold though I wouldn't say I have too many regrets," she said.

On her final push to compete at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics

Chethan Shivakumar

ONE FOR THE FRAME: TCS World 10K international event ambassdor Blanka Vlasic strikes a pose in Bengaluru on Thursday

> High jump has its particular rules. How you need to keep your body, How you need to run the curve, what rhythm should you start with, what rhythm you should finish, how to position yourself, how to keep your shoulders? So, it's all about a lot of small details that you practice throughout the year so you are able to execute them as perfectly as possible during competition.
> — DISSECTING HIGH JUMP

Vlasic, whose brother Nikola plays for the Croatian football team, said it was a painful period. "After Rio, I told my coach not to allow me to jump if I'm under any pain. It was so painful (with injuries) and it wasn't the sport I fell in love with. It was mostly pain. So I decided I would not jump again unless I get completely injury-free, which I didn't manage," she said.

Vlasic said her dad and coach Josko Vlasic, former Mediterranean Games champion, thought she could fly over the bar set at 2.15m. "My dream height was always 2.10. And when my dad and I discussed how high I could actually jump, he said '2.15m'.

"When you see that you can jump 2.06 and above, and you have World records in your body and you're still 25. You think that actually bigger heights are possible. But in sport, things are unpredictable and injuries can happen..." she signed off.

BLANKA VLASIC

Nationality: Croatian
Born: November 8, 1983
Height: 1.93m
Retired: 2021

Personal best 2.08m	Indoor best 2.06m
Jumps over 2-metre 165	Golden League titles 17
Diamond League titles 14	World & European medals 9

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

OLYMPICS	
Beijing 2008	silver
Rio de Janeiro 2016	bronze
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS	
Osaka 2007	gold
Berlin 2009	gold
Daegu 2011	silver
Beijing 2015	silver
WORLD ATHLETICS FINAL	
Stuttgart 2007	gold
Stuttgart 2008	gold
Solun 2009	gold
WORLD INDOORS	
Valencia 2008	gold
Doha 2010	gold
Moscow 2006	silver
Budapest 2004	bronze

> I think that in sport there should be strict policies. So things should be clear and everybody who is competing should compete under the same standards and have the same conditions for competing. So, therefore, you know, women's sport should be protected in that way.
> —ON GENDER TESTS

Good times roll for seasoned Jeev & Bhullar

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Singapore: "I'm cramping up," Jeev Milkha Singh said, half-wincing, having endured a miserable back-nine in the sapping Singapore weather. "Must have got used to the golf carts on the Senior Tours." There was that familiar laughter.

GOLF

It was muscle memory that drove the 2008 Singapore Open champion on the front-nine of the par-71 Serapong course as he made the turn at even par.

Six-over, overall, never mind.

"I was cramping under my shoulder blade so I could make only short swings. Plenty of fluids tomorrow, we carry on," he said.

Gaganjeet Bhullar, who was tied-6th on the opening day of the International Series event at Sentosa GC with a bogey-free four-under, sat alongside. He had a story to share. When he was 20, Bhullar had witnessed history from his vantage point on the ninth hole. "I remember it clearly. Jeev sir was finishing on the 18th hole and I was finishing on the ninth at the same time so I actually saw him hole a putt on the last, holding off Ernie Els and Padraig Harrington."

And then, Jeev dropped a bombshell. Had it not been for a rain delay, and an attentive referee watching a broadcast from Thailand, his triumph would never have happened. He would have been disqualified in the first round itself!

"It's amazing. Ernie, myself, and I don't remember the third player, we started in the afternoon. On the fourth hole, had a great drive, and we play preferred lies here. I put my ball down and the ball moved. And the rule says, if the ball has moved, you can't pick it up and put it back again."

Unaware of the infraction, he played on. "I didn't realize I'd made a mistake."

Rain halted play. Overnight, a referee reviewing highlights spotted the error and alerted the tournament director not to let Jeev sign his card after finishing the round the next day . "If I had, I would have been disqualified."

Instead, he was assessed a one-shot penalty. He signed for a 73.

Leading scores: -7 Ekpharit Wu (Tha), Jeongwoo Ham (Kor); -5 Charles Porter (USA), Aidric Chan (Phi), Kieran Vincent (Zim); Best Indians: -4 Gaganjeet Bhullar (T6), -1 Shaurya Bhattacharya, Ajeetesh Sandhu, Rashid Khan (T29), Par-Karandeep Kochhar, Pukhraj Singh Gill (T54). *(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of International Series).*

Archer Jawkar banned for 2 years

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Kolkata: Leading compound archer Prathamesh Jawkar will not be part of India's men's team to defend the Asian Games title this year even before the selection trials for the mega event. The 22-year-old archer was banned for two years, starting April 19, after he accepted the punishment for a whereabouts failure.

Jawkar, who is part of the Registered Testing Pool (RTP) of athletes, is supposed to file whereabouts information every quarter of the year which includes details of his accommodation, training, work, competition schedule and other relevant details.

As Jawkar, who won an individual silver at the Asia Cup in Bangkok last month, missed the deadline for three of the four (March, June, Sept, Dec) stipulated filings last year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Gates Entry Have Been Changed look at the Map For Details
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QUEENS ROAD
MG ROAD
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CIGARETTES, BIDIS
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Co-operate with police / security personnel for searching / frisking.
Entry only for persons with valid tickets / passes
Gathering of groups near gates and around the stadium is prohibited.
Follow Q system for easy flow.
Be alert about your surroundings.
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ONLY A VALID LIVE M-TICKET WILL BE ACCEPTED. SCREENSHOTS, VIDEOS OR PRINTOUTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED AS VALID.
BEWARE OF FAKE TICKETS. DON'T BUY TICKETS FROM THE BLACK MARKET

The title chase

Man City Go Ahead Of Arsenal By Virtue Of Having Scored More Goals...

London: It might have taken 244 days, but the Premier League table has a familiar look to it again. Manchester City are top and looking down on the rest after limping past Burnley at Turf Moor with a hardfought win which sent Scott Parker's men down.

Erling Haaland's fifth-minute strike was enough to see Pep Guardiola's side leapfrog title rivals Arsenal, courtesy of having scored more goals. Arsenal now walk into Saturday's clash with Newcastle United with their margin for error gone, knowing that any stumble at the Emirates could prove fatal to their title hopes.

Mikel Arteta's side go into the weekend knowing that anything less than victory at the Emirates would hand the initiative straight back to Manchester City, who moved top of the table by the smallest of margins after Wednesday's 1-0 win at Burnley.

FOOTBALL

City and Arsenal are level on 70 points and goal difference (37), with Pep Guardiola's side ahead by only three goals scored, but the optics of the race have shifted once again.

Arsenal, who only recently held a commanding lead, are now chasing momentum as well as results. A 2-1 defeat by City last weekend and their rivals' relentless pursuit have stripped away any buffer, making Newcastle's visit a must-win date.

Rarely had the outcome of a game felt more predictable than on Wednesday. Maybe because, since 2018, City had won the past 14 games between the two clubs in all competitions — by an aggregate score of 51-3.

DAILY MIRROR/AGENCIES

Reuters

EPL: TOP FIVE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	33	21	7	5	66	29	70
Arsenal	33	21	7	5	63	26	70
Man Utd	33	16	10	7	58	45	58
Aston Villa	33	17	7	9	47	41	58
Liverpool	33	16	7	10	54	43	55

TITLE RACE

Then & Now

2025-26 | Man City vs Arsenal
- Man City lead on GD as of now (70 pts)
- Goal difference & head-to-head could be decisive

SIMILAR LAST-DAY DRAMA

2011-12 | City vs Man United
- Finished level on points (89)
- City won on goal difference

Iconic last-day drama | Aguero's 93:20 min goal.

2007-08 | United vs Chelsea
- Level on points (87)
- United won on goal difference

Barca lose Yamal, Spain sweat...

Winger Tears Hamstring, Out For Rest Of Season

Barcelona: Spain's Lamine Yamal has picked up a hamstring injury but is expected to be fit for the upcoming World Cup, his club Barcelona announced Thursday.

"Tests have confirmed that first-team player Lamine Yamal has a hamstring injury in his left leg," Barca said.

"The player will undergo conservative treatment. Lamine Yamal will miss the rest of the season and is expected to be available for the World Cup," which runs from June 11-July 19 this year. Spain open their campaign in Group H against Cape Verde on June 15 before taking on Saudi Arabia on June 21 and finishing their pool play against Uruguay six days later.

MANY A SLIP... Gavi (left) and Pedri enquire on a prone Yamal's condition

Yamal picked up the injury in Barcelona's 1-0 victory over Celta Vigo in La Liga action on Wednesday.

The teenage Spain star, who has scored six goals in 25 appearances for the national side since making his debut in 2023, won and converted a penalty to clinch a narrow home triumph. But after beating Ionut Radu with a low penalty, Yamal pulled up hurt immediately, calling for treatment and lying on the turf as his team-mates came over to celebrate.

The right winger was replaced by by Roony Bardghji.

The result saw Barcelona move nine points clear of Real Madrid at the top of the table with six matches remaining. AFP

Grounded Untimely

Lamine Yamal (Barcelona/Spain) Suspected hamstring tear (left leg). **Early estimate:** 3-5 weeks out, could miss remainder of club season
Worst-case scenario: Risk to 2026 World Cup participation

Estevao Willian (Chelsea/Brazil) Sustained Grade 4 hamstring injury. **Early estimate:** Out for season.
Worst-case scenario: Could miss World Cup

Hugo Ekitike (Liverpool/France) Suffered Achilles tendon injury **Early estimate:** Expected to miss about 9-10 months
Worst-case scenario: Will miss the World Cup

RCB seek strong finish at home

Patidar's Men Face Gill's Inconsistent Titans As Hosts Wrap Up Bengaluru League Fixtures

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Pics: Chethan Shivakumar/TANS

HARD AT WORK: Gujarat Titans skipper Shubman Gill (left) and his RCB counterpart Rajat Patidar during training on Thursday

Bengaluru: Friday's IPL clash at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium brings together two captains on opposite arcs. Rajat Patidar, who had only limited leadership experience on the domestic circuit before being handed the RCB captain's job last season, has turned into the defending champions' most explosive batter and a steady hand in a high-pressure campaign.

In contrast, Shubman Gill, arrives with a heavier leadership resume, which includes the India captaincy in Tests and ODIs. But his season for the Gujarat Titans has been far less fluent, especially in the Powerplay, even if his numbers still keep him among the league's leading run-scorers. As a team, Gujarat are wobbling, having just recovered from a 99-run crushing against the Mumbai Indians.

PREVIEW

Patidar's rise has been one of the season's sharper storylines. Before being handed RCB's captaincy, his leadership experience had largely been limited to Madhya Pradesh's campaign in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He has backed that relative inexperience with fearless batting, dominating the middle overs in the last couple of seasons. Currently the team's second-highest run-scorer with 230 runs from six matches (strike rate 212.96), Patidar has been RCB's power-hitting spark this season.

On the other hand, Gill's season has been more uneven. The 26-year-old has had to carry a heavy scoring load this season while navigating patchy results around him. With a strike rate of 151.42, Gill sits third on the run-scorer's chart with 265 runs from five matches.

With three half-centuries against his name, Gill, as GT skipper, has blown hot and cold, with the former champions undergoing an inconsistent run. This contrast between the skippers is at the centre of a contest in which both teams enter on the back of losses. RCB have looked sharp in the Powerplay and at the death, with Phil Salt, Virat Kohli, Devdutt Padikkal and Patidar giving the order a strong top-end and Tim David a sizzling finish. GT, meanwhile, had won three in a row before their last outing, but the batting order was exposed in their crushing loss to Mumbai, underlining its dependence on the top order.

While RCB's batting has been their biggest weapon, their bowling still looks a touch thinner when forced to defend at home and the onus will once again fall on Bhuvneshwar Kumar and spinner Krunal Pandya. They will also hope that their Australian pace ace Josh Hazlewood bounces back after an off-day against the Capitals.

Meanwhile, GT's pace attack remains a major strength, with Prasidh Krishna their leading wicket-taker and support around him giving the unit bite, but their batting has tended to lean heavily on Gill, Jos Buttler and Sai Sudharsan. That makes the middle order a possible pressure point. On his home turf, Prasidh could probe the RCB batters.

History offers little to separate them. The head-to-head is level at 3-3, while GT won the corresponding fixture here in 2025 by eight wickets.

With RCB playing their last home league fixture in Bengaluru, the hosts will not just want points: they will want to sign off with a flourish.

WEATHER

29°C

NUMBERS GAME

6 All six IPL matches played between the two teams resulted in big wins for the chasing sides. RCB beat GT by eight wickets at Wankhede Stadium on May 19, 2022, by nine wickets at Ahmedabad on April 28, 2024 and by four wickets at Bengaluru on May 4, 2024. Gujarat Titans' wins have been by six wickets — at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai on April 30,2022; at Bengaluru on May 21, 2023 and by eight wickets at Bengaluru on April 2, 2025.

104 Shubman Gill's unbeaten effort off 52 balls at Bengaluru on May 21, 2023 — the only hundred recorded for GT vs RCB in the IPL.

351 Runs scored by Virat Kohli, including a 100 and three 50s, in 6 innings at a strike rate. He is the only batter to post 5 consecutive innings of 40-plus vs GT — 58 at Brabourne, 73 at Wankhede — both in 2022, 101 n.o Bengaluru in 2023, 70 n.o at Ahmedabad and 42 at Bengaluru — both in 2024.

Stats: Rajesh Kumar

'We are not looking at the table too much'

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GAME READY: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's batting coach Dinesh Karthik (left) with Phil Salt

Bengaluru: A week can feel like a reset button in a long tournament. For Royal Challengers Bengaluru, that pause may have come at just the right time. After a rare stumble at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium this season, RCB are set to play their last league match here on Friday, hoping the break has steadied the rhythm rather than stalled it.

"It's quite nice to have some days off after the last game because it didn't go the way we wanted it to," said Mo Bobat, RCB's director of cricket, reflecting on the team's reset. The short breather allowed players to step away before returning to a more measured week of preparation.

THINK-TANK TALK

"On the third day, we had a session with a lot of the guys who haven't been playing. It's nice in a week like this to give those boys a bit of love and some time in the middle," he added, underlining the importance of keeping the entire squad engaged. According to the Englishman, in a long tournament, being positioned among the top teams does not give any sense of comfort. "It's pleasing to have four wins. We'd obviously rather not have the two defeats," he said, pointing to the tight nature of the competition.

"You can win one game and move up a lot or lose one and drop down. We're not looking at the table too much—we just want to win this next game."

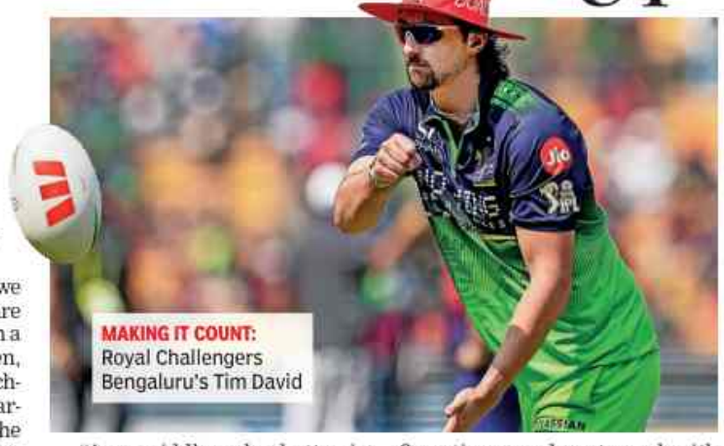
Much of RCB's consistency has come under the calm, assertive leadership of Rajat Patidar. "We plan with aggressive tactics, but Rajat makes the decisions out there and he's very good at that," Bobat noted. "One of his biggest strengths is how calm he is. Even in chaotic moments, he backs his instincts."

With this marking their final home fixture, RCB are aware of the shift ahead. "We're on the road quite a lot after this," Bobat said. "We won't see much of Bengaluru, which is a bit of a shame," he added.

David's role: Combining power with purpose

RCB's Explosive Batter Reflects On Risk, Role Clarity And Evolving Six-Hitting Culture

Manuja Veerappa@timesofindia.com



MAKING IT COUNT: Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Tim David

Bengaluru: Towering power-hitter Tim David had a watershed 2025. He began the year by clinching the Australian Big Bash League title with the Hobart Hurricanes, before moving to India a couple of months later to be part of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's maiden IPL triumph.

In national colours, David smashed a 37-ball century against the West Indies in Basseterre in July, the fastest T20I hundred by an Australian.

Now into his sixth IPL season, the 30-year-old, who makes six-hitting seem like child's play, is thriving in his role as a middle-order batter and finisher for Royal Challengers Bengaluru.

Decoding his role for the defending champions, David highlighted the importance of the top order featuring Phil Salt, Virat Kohli and Rajat Patidar. "As a middle-overs batter, you basically have to solve problems. We're very lucky that we have a brilliant top order. They are very consistent and also put us in a good position in the game. Often, I'm just adding the finishing touches. With players like Jitesh (Sharma) and Romario (Shepherd), the pressure is shared," said David during a select media interaction.

Having represented over a dozen franchises, David also spoke about managing expectations.

"As a middle-order batter in T20 cricket, you can't do it every game. If you expect that, it becomes really difficult. My role is to get us to the best possible score. Sometimes you have to work with the bowlers when you're batting low down. A massive part of the IPL is not putting extra pressure on yourself or judging yourself too harshly when things don't come off," he explained.

This season's six-hitting charts have been dominated by young Indians. Abhishek Sharma leads with 27 maximums, followed by Patidar (22), Priyansh Arya and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (20 each), while Cooper Connolly rounds out the top five with 14.

David attributes this to the growing depth and evolution of Indian talent.

"The depth of the domestic talent in India has improved a lot. You see players coming into the IPL ready to hit sixes, which is so different. Before, you would need specific overseas players who would be power hitters. In the early years, you had people like Chris Gayle, but that's changed. The Indian domestic and international players all hit sixes. I think that's stepped up throughout the competition. The skill adaptation from all the batters and so much more power, it's got to be down to them practising six hitting a lot more," he said.

On his own six-hitting ability, David added, "Being big helps with being able to hit sixes. It also means I use heavy bats and bowlers have more areas to land their balls against me. So, there are pros and cons to everything but you have to play to your strengths and I suppose I've been good at hitting since I started my T20 career and that's the strength I want to take to the bowlers."

Often among the first to arrive at the nets at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium and the last to leave, David's work ethic has also helped him improve against spin in Indian conditions. "I've been training harder than ever, the coaches sometimes have to throw me out of the nets," he joked. "I always felt I played spin well, but in India, you're challenged by the best. I wasn't happy with my approach earlier, so I reworked it with my coach back home and made some technical adjustments."

On the risks of batting in the business end of an innings, David was candid.

"I think there's always a risk in any decision, and for me, it would be riskier to play defensively because the team would say I'm of no use to them. It takes a lot of self-conviction to keep taking risks, because you understand that if it doesn't go well, you'll be criticized. I would also be disappointed with myself, because I've come to India for three months and I want to have a good season—I want to be successful with RCB, and I want my team to win," he said.

Indian men fancy their chances

Tough Test Awaits Sindhu & Co

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AP

HIGH HOPES: Lakshya Sen's form will be key for India's success

The heroics of Ayush Shetty at the Asian meet and Lakshya Sen at the All England boost India's chances at the Thomas Cup, but the women may have to work hard in the Uber Cup beginning Thursday in Horsens, Denmark.

THOMAS & UBER CUP

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) will also vote to decide the fate of 3x15 format on Saturday.

The 2022 champions may not have fancied their chances, but the sensational rise of 20-year-old Ayush, Lakshya's return to form and the presence of the Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty make India favourites along with China, Chinese Taipei and Indonesia. A rubber at the TUC comprises three singles and two doubles.

India play Canada on April 24, Australia (April 27) and China (April 29), and are expected to qualify for the quarterfinals from Group A along with China. HS Prannoy, who played a big role in helping India win the Thomas Cup said: "We've been putting in the work as a group over the last few weeks, focusing on getting our combinations right and building rhythm. The Thomas Cup is demanding with three tough group ties. The focus is on staying sharp and taking it one match at a time."

The absence of strong singles and doubles players, coupled with PV Sindhu's poor form complicate India's chances in the Uber Cup. The withdrawal of Gayatri Gopichand-Treesa Jolly duo, due to the latter's ankle injury, added to the woes.

India had won bronze medals in 2014 and 2016, but may struggle to clear the group stage. They face Denmark on April 24, Ukraine (April 25) and China (April 27). Tanvi Sharma, Deivka Sihag, Unnati Hooda and Isharani Baruah are expected to play the second and third singles. In Treesa-Gayatri's absence, Priya Konjengbam-Shruti Mishra and Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi are likely to do the doubles' duty.

Hooda said, "It's a huge stage to be part of. We have a young group this time and everyone is putting in the work, pushing each other in training. There's a lot of energy and we're focused on making the most of this opportunity."

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QUICK SINGLES

STARC CLEARED TO PLAY IN IPL

Pacer Mitchell Starc has been cleared to play in the IPL for DC after missing the first half of the season because of fitness concerns, Cricket Australia said Thursday. The left-arm quick had been recovering from elbow and shoulder injuries but is now expected to join Delhi Capitals for the game against Rajasthan Royals On May 1

CSK draft in Madhwal: CSK on Thursday signed right-arm pacer Akash Madhwal as a replacement for Ayush Mhatre, who was ruled out of the remainder of the IPL due to a left hamstring injury. Madhwal joins CSK for Rs 30 lakh. He has previously represented MI (2023, 2024) and RR (2025).

Thushara withdraws case against SLC: Fast bowler Nuwan Thushara, who had dragged Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) to court for not issuing him a No-Objection Certificate (NoC) for competing in the IPL, on Thursday withdrew the case against the governing body. Thushara was slated to appear for the RCB.

I have only one goal: Naz

Continued from Page 1

Breakthrough came in 2023 when MP Hockey Academy spotted her. Training, diet, equipment — all followed. "The academy has been her lifeline, providing gear and training that I couldn't," said her father.

Dreams quickly turned into numbers. At 16th sub-junior women's national championship in Bihar's Rajgir earlier this month, Naz tore through defences — nine goals, top scorer, player of the final.

Khan watched, overwhelmed. "I shed tears seeing her today," he said. Once unsure about her pursuit because of crushing poverty, he now stands firm against social pushback over her training attire. "If anyone stops my daughter, they'll face me first."

Naz is one of seven siblings. Hunger, space, and

HOCKEY

money remain daily constraints. Yet talent and dedication keep forcing doors open. Her younger sister Sabarika has entered the academy after talent hunts.

India's hockey story has long drawn strength from small towns and hard ground. From dusty fields to national camps, many of its finest have risen from modest homes where sport competes with survival. Naz fits that lineage — raw, relentless, unfiltered by privilege.

"I have only one goal: to play for the country," she said, eyes fixed on the Asia Cup.

Selection is not sealed yet. But momentum is unmistakable. From a cloth-bound stick to national reckoning, Naz has already cleared the toughest hurdle — belief. If form holds, the next step could carry her beyond camps and into colours she has chased without even owning her stick.

Andrea's hat-trick powers Pass FC Sparks

Bengaluru: Andrea scored a hat-trick to help Pass FC Sparks get past Technico FF 4-0 in the KSFA Women's 'A' division football league championship here on Thursday. The Sparks players dominated possession, making interceptions and preventing the Technico players from closing in and breaking their attacking flow. Striker Andrea positioned herself in tight spaces to receive the passes and scored. Pooja D added another in the 64th minute to seal the tie for the Sparks.

The Technico players failed to trouble the Sparks's defence, as they couldn't get the right pass into the opposition box or make the run to mount attacks. The Technico players tried to play from the centre in a very crowded midfield, whereas the Sparks used the wide areas. TNN

Result: Pass FC Sparks 4 (Andrea Elizabeth 5, 21, 44, Pooja D 64) bt Technico FF 0.

Today's matches: Parilorama FC vs Reds United FC (2.30 pm), Young Blues Elite FC vs Kemp FC Juniors (4 pm) — **Kaushal Kumar**

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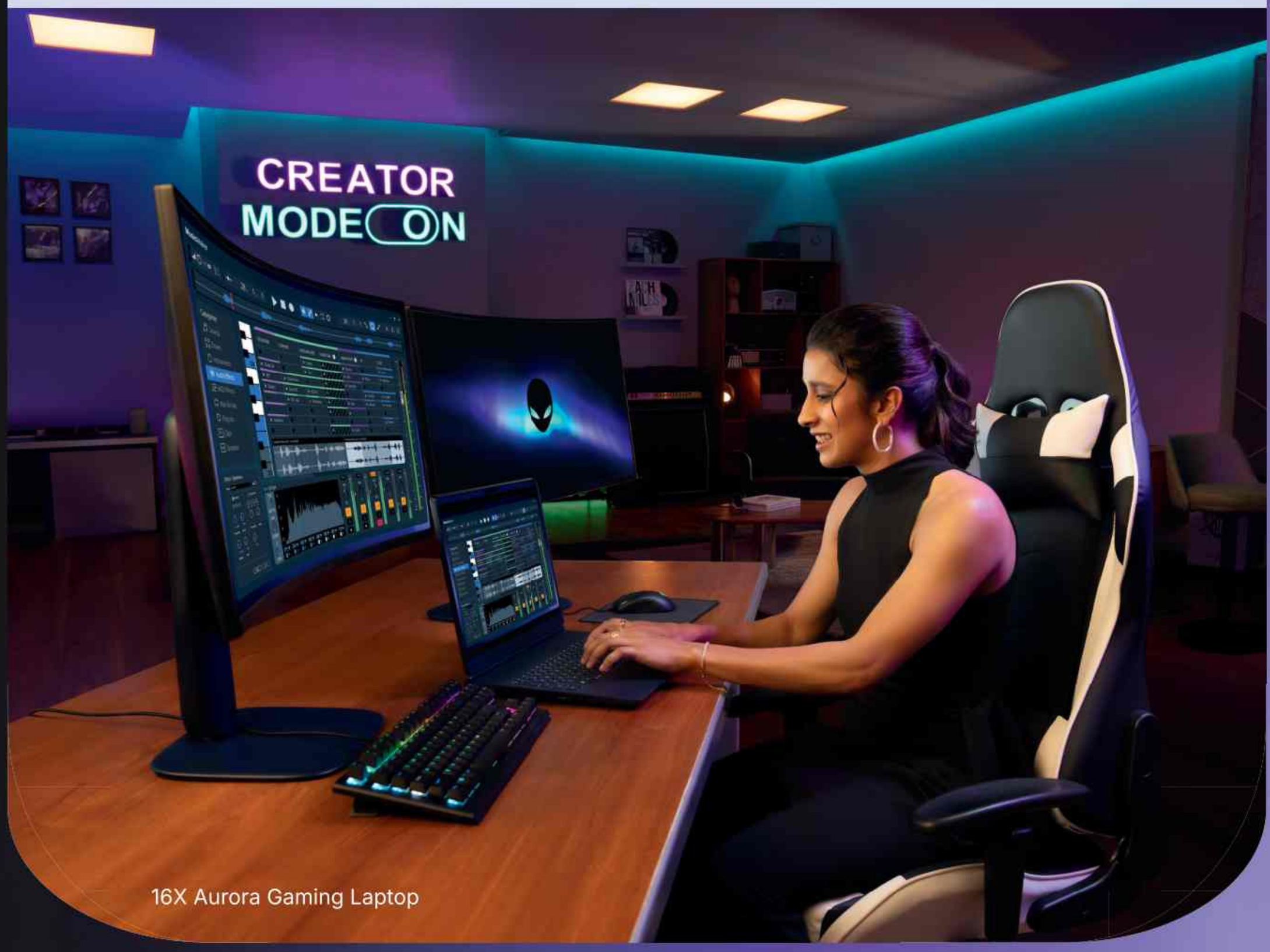

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